

THE LEGACY OF A DICTATORSHIP

[STATE SECURITY DOCUMENTS AND STORIES]



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During the Cold War, the countries of the Soviet Bloc, as a result of the change in the political system in 1990, freed themselves from the influence of the Soviet Union and the communist system. This also meant that the history of the dictatorship and the crimes of the regime could be confronted. The secret services and state security services played a decisive role in the implementation of communist power, and familiarity with the documents they produced is essential for unravelling the history of the period. Archives have therefore been set up in most former socialist countries to allow research into secret service records. In Hungary, the Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security (ABTL) fulfils this role. The Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security is a specialised state archive founded in 1997. Its main function is the study and presentation of the history of the secret services before 1990, as well as the provision of individual and collective information compensation to citizens and society, respectively, enabling victims and those who were under surveillance to consult the documents relating to them. Following World War II Hungary became part of the Soviet Union's sphere of interest. From 1945, the communist dictatorship was gradually established. After World War II, the Hungarian communists, relying on the Soviet army, gradually ousted their political opponents from power, using electoral fraud and show trials. An important goal of this exhibition is to demonstrate to people how the political police of the communist dictatorship worked, while the broader purpose of the exhibition and community space is to present the documents held in the Archives to the public at large. These documents relate to the investigations carried out against persons under surveillance and those persecuted for political reasons. It is widely believed that the Archives are essentially a repository of documents that are rarely of great interest, however, the stories they tell are fascinating, often deeply moving, and certainly important in order to understand the past. The Archives provide visitors with the most comprehensive picture possible of the operation and records of state security, whether they spend a shorter or longer period of time here. The exhibition includes a number of interactive elements, such as pull-out drawers and audio material, which contribute to revealing new layers in the history of state security. The permanent exhibition presents the operation of the political police between 1945 and 1990 through specific historical events, focusing on the documents and using objects from the Archives. The operation of the state security apparatus can be followed through six thematic units: in the white zone, the target group to be kept under control, i.e. the forms of social resistance; in the black zone, the methods and areas of violence and reprisal; in the grey zone, the methods of secret investigations; the network of agents, the secret surveillance methods, the organisation of power-enforcement and its leaders. The types of documents produced during the operation of state security are displayed in the middle of the exhibition.

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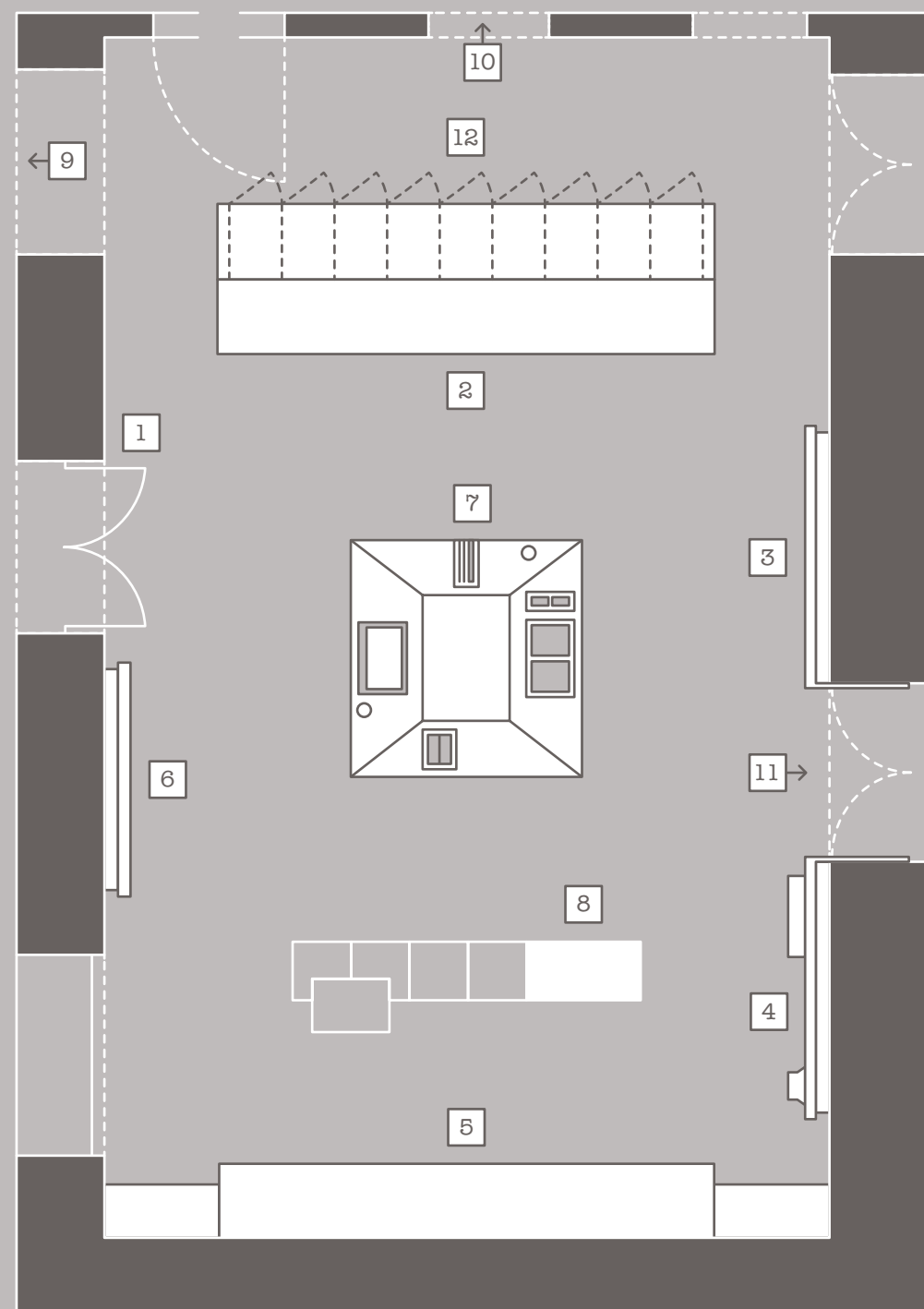
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|---|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Introduction | 5. Under Lock and Key | 7. From Dossiers to Magnetic Tapes |
| 2. Free Hungary! [Social Resistance and State Security] | - Sentences Imposed [State Defence Prisons and Camps] | - [Who?] |
| 3. Giving and Obtaining Information [The Network of Agents] | - Confess! [The Inspection] | - [How?] |
| 4. They See Us and Hear Us [Secret Methods] | - Stop! State border! ["The Iron Curtain"] | - [Why?] |
| | 6. State Defence | - [By whom?] |
| | - State Security | 8. "The Grasshopper" |
| | [The Organisation] | 9. Reception |
| | | 10. Toilets |
| | | 11. Research room |
| | | 12. Locker |

MAP OF THE EXHIBITION

The exhibition starts at the "white wall" to the left of the entrance. Visitors should proceed in a clockwise direction. In the "showcase" in the centre, visitors can read through the state security documents referenced to on the walls.



photograph: Dániel Kovalovszky

The first section, the "white wall", is titled **Free Hungary! [Social Resistance and State Security]**. This section of the exhibition – from the perspective of state security and illustrated with examples and typical events – focuses on organisations, movements and groups that questioned the power of the Communist Party. During the communist dictatorship, the most spectacular open civil revolt was the Hungarian Revolution of '56, which is why

the flag of '56, symbolising the open resistance of the country and society as a whole, was placed in the centre of the wall. The revolution was a turning point between the Rákosi and the Kádár eras, named after the Communist Party leaders. Often secret or isolated, local-level movements are "locked behind glass", where we present stories of the most typical forms of civil resistance.



photographs: Dániel Kovalovszky

On the last part of the wall, a bar for holding phone books and an earpiece evoke now all but forgotten telephone boxes. Today, in the world of the Internet, it's easy to overlook the significance of the landline. In addition to the political police, the authorities also kept society under close surveillance by other means, one of the less visible forms of which was restricting access to telephones. Very few people were allowed to have a phone at home, thereby preventing news from spreading quickly. People had no choice but to use the telephones available at post offices or phone boxes on the street. Since many people used the

phone boxes, leaflets were regularly stuck up there, turning the phone boxes into spaces of resistance. At the exhibition, visitors can read samizdat (illegal, unauthorised) publications on the bar holding the phone books. These publications represent a way of disseminating content, information and opinions unauthorised and censored by the regime. The graffiti on the “white wall” refer to slogans and political protests against the system. Graffiti was a common form of expressing dissatisfaction, and applying it could carry prison sentences of several years.



The next part is closely related to the people under surveillance: in the “grey zone”, visitors gain an insight into the various forms of surveillance. The (operative) tools used during secret investigations, the network of agents, wiretapping and secret surveillance are shown. On the wall titled ***Giving and Obtaining Information [The Network of Agents]***, a file for network registration – the so-called file 6, next to a key and a photograph of a secret

apartment – is presented, a reference to those who collaborated with state security and the members of the network. The telephone cord symbolises the network that was interwoven into the whole of society. In the middle of the zone is an apartment where the agent and the officer would meet. The documents on the wall, concerning the agent and the apartment, familiarise us with the people who were secretly cooperating with state security.



Part 4, a wall titled ***They See Us and Hear Us [Secret Methods]***, presents the tools of secret surveillance, grouped around the three best-known methods: letter opening, wiretapping and tailing. In addition to a letter opener that left the letters undamaged, the two original surveillance methods (wiretapping, tailing) also indicate state security methods used to monitor people's daily

lives. In a walk-around display case, visitors can look at the ***"Grasshopper"***, a copying device used for secretly reproducing documents. Pieces of information obtained through secret investigative methods were also applied in public investigations, while investigations were used to prepare the ground for show trials and to crush the resistance.



photographs: Dániel Kovalovszky

In the "black zone", titled ***Under Lock***, counterpointing the "white zone" facing it, the topic is institutionalised violence, public investigations (inquiries) by the political police, reprisals and the Iron Curtain. Some stones, shoes and a piece of barbed wire found in the camp in Reesk conjure up camps and prisons, and the trials by

lamp light evoking the atmosphere of interrogations. Visitors are reminded of people restricted in housing, community life and travel, of a Hungary surrounded by impenetrable borders and of the Iron Curtain by passports, a board game for border guards and a border barrier seen in contemporary photographs.



The wall titled ***State Defence – State Security [The Organisation]***, which is also grey due to its theme, provides information on the organisation and officers of the political police from its beginnings until

1990. The centrepiece of the wall bears the name stamp of Gábor Péter, the notorious leader of state defence, whose name is closely associated with it.



photographs: Dániel Kovalovszky

In the centre of the exhibition, at the showcase titled ***From Dossiers to Magnetic Tapes***, visitors can browse through dossiers on state security, referring to the topics displayed on the walls. The volumes are divided into two parts: the first part deals with the formal and content requirements

of dossiers based on the “sample dossiers” written for state security officers, while the second part describes the most typical documents of the various types of dossiers through a story. The touch-screen monitor provides more details on documents and explanations of state security terms.

Free
Hungary!

FREE HUNGARY!

[SOCIAL RESISTANCE AND STATE SECURITY]

WARRANT OF CAPTION

Hungary, which fought on the side of the Axis Pact in World War II, was occupied by Soviet troops after the war. The political police, established in 1945, was tasked with finding and preparing the prosecution of war criminals and those guilty of crimes against the people. From the beginning, the political police was led by the leaders of the

Communist Party. The organisation carried out not only the tasks assigned to it, but also prepared the way for successive political changes and was instrumental in the communist takeover. From the end of 1946, investigations were also conducted against democratic forces, including people who had been active in the anti-fascist resistance.

Lehetségesnek tartotta volna, hogy az összeesküvés fel nem fedezése esetén meg tudta volna dönteni a magyar demokráciát?

	férfi			nő		
	értelm.	kispolg.	munkás	értelm.	kispolg.	munkás
igen	25.7	25.0	22.4	22.6	33.0	30.2
nem	73.0	74.0	77.1	76.2	66.4	68.3
egyéb, nincs válasz	1.3	1.0	0.5	1.2	0.6	1.5
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

A közönségnek mindössze 27%-a tartotta volna valószínűnek azt, hogy az összeesküvésnek fel nem fedezése esetén sikerült volna megdönteni a magyar demokráciát.

ÁBTL - 3.1.9. - V-2000/33/a

Extract from the confidential report of the Hungarian Public Opinion Poll Service of the Hungarian News Agency in 1946

The public opinion poll asked the public about the first series of large-scale show trials. This section reveals that 27% of respondents thought that the "conspiracy" could indeed have overthrown democracy.



Photograph of Lajos Dálnoki Veress
(ÁBTL – 3.1.9. – V-2000)



In the Hungarian-Soviet Cultural Society's weekly magazine "The Future", an article was published titled "Leader of the Fascist Conspirators Wanted". The editorial team obtained a portrait of Lajos Dálnoki Veress, and showed several ways he could have altered his appearance.

During World War II, General Lajos Dálnoki Veress played an important role in the military's attempts to withdraw from the war, which failed, and Lajos Dálnoki Veress was arrested by the Gestapo. After the war, despite his role in trying to withdraw from the war, he was retired as a staff officer of the army fighting on the German side. However, he stayed in touch with his fellow officers, and held meetings in his apartment. The group was kept under surveillance for a while by the political police,

and then accused of plotting armed resistance. Arrests began in late 1946. Dálnoki Veress went underground after the first arrests moving from one friend to the next before finally making his way to the British Embassy where he sought asylum. The authorities tracked him down after he had been in hiding for a month. The People's Court sentenced him to death at first instance, and to life imprisonment at second instance. He was freed by revolutionaries in 1956.



The former Royal Embassy building at 49 Castellana
(source: the newspaper titled ABC)

Seal of the Royal
Embassy of Hungary
(ÁBTL – 1.11.10.)

REFUGE

Hungary's form of government changed from that of a kingdom to a republic after World War I, and in 1949, after the adoption of the communist constitution, to a people's republic. Diplomatic relations between the monarchy of Spain and the Hungarian state were not restored for many decades. However, the "Hungarian Royal Embassy" in Madrid continued to function since the Spanish government recognised this "old" body as legitimate, thus providing valuable assistance

to the refugees from communist Hungary. The Embassy issued passports, authenticated documents, provided legal assistance, and broadcast in Hungarian. It was an important meeting place for Hungarians forced into emigration. It was closed in 1969, after Hungary officially opened a trade agency in the Spanish capital. The Embassy of the Hungarian People's Republic, however, only became operational after Franco's death in 1977.

48
BELÜGYMINISZTERIUM
II/3 B.alosztály

Szigoruan titkos!

Tárgy: dr.Marossy Ferenc
levelezése

J e l e n t é s .
Budapest, 1960. december 7.

dr. ~~Marossy/Mengela/~~ Ferenc / 1893. Szeged, Gössl Francisca/ volt horthysta diplomata, aki jelenleg Madridban él, mint a MB. spanyolországi megbízottja és MHBK. vezető fejt ki ellenséges tevékenységet.

A magyar fasiszta emigráción belüli levelezéséből mindössze egy 1957. ápr. 7-én írott levele van birtokunkban, melyet Dálnoki Veres Lajashoz intézett.

Levele teljesen közömbös szövegű, kifejezi örömét Dálnoki tervezett spanyolországi látogatásával kapcsolatban, leírja, hogy milyen történelmi nevezetességeket akar megmutatni Dálnokinak, aki személyesen is meggyőződhet a spanyolok magyar-barátságáról, mely a "szabadságharc" nyomán az egész Spanyolországot elárasztotta.

Számunkra a levélnek operatív értéke nincs.

Varga
Varga Sándor r.örgy.
főoperatívbeosztott

Készült: 2.pld. 1 old.
Készítette: VS.

ÁBTL - 3.2.4. - K-340

Extract from the biography of Ferenc Marosy

Ferenc Marosy was a professional member of the foreign affairs apparatus between the two world wars, and afterwards, a diplomat. He went to Madrid in April 1946, where he became a semi-official representative of Hungarian affairs.

The intelligence services wanted to recruit him in 1960, and kept him under surveillance. In 1962, it was established that there was no realistic basis for his recruitment, so his case was closed and his dossier archived.

HUMAN CHAIN FOR THE FATHERS

The surveillance of the various churches and the persecution of religions spanned the entire period, as the communist ideology rested on an atheistic, materialistic foundation. The Communist Party systematically reduced the role of the churches, made the existence of church communities impossible, and nationalised church schools. This process also included open action against religious orders and their dissolution. Monks were deported to forced accommodation centres, and several clergymen were subjected to show trials. Such proceedings were also brought against the Franciscan monk Rafael Kriszten and his associates. At dawn on 19 June 1950, two lorries pulled up

in front of the Franciscan monastery in Újhatvan, a town inhabited mainly by railway employees. The members of the community gathered around the building to prevent the deportation of the monks. The protest was broken up by State Protection Authority special forces who were sent to the monastery, then broke in, physically assaulted the monks and dragged them away. Father Kriszten Rafael was sentenced to life imprisonment and his associates to several years in prison. The 34 men from Hatvan who supported the monks were deported to the most notorious internment camp in Recsk, and 40 families were relocated to the closed camps in Hortobágy.

Extract from the interrogation conducted in the internment camp, 1952 (ÁBTL - 3.1.9. - V-7221)

1950. június 20.-án internáltak demokrácia ellenes tevékenységért.

Beismerem, hogy 1950. júniusban az újhatvani demokrácia ellenes tüntetés napján én éjjeli ügyeletes voltam. Az éjjeli órákban, kb. 2 órakor Hatvanból Péter Gábor altábornagy Rákosi Mátyás miniszterelnök helyettes telefonszámát kérte. Határozottan utasiátsa volt, hogy azonnal kapcsoljam Rákosi Mátyás telefonszámát.

Beismerem, hogy ennek ellenére sem kapcsoltam Rákosi Mátyás telefonszámát. Az első felhívás után több alkalommal sürgettek Újhatvanból a kapcsolást. Többször Péter Gábor az ÁVH. vezetője szólt be a kagylóba és adott utasítást azonnali kapcsolásra. Beismerem, hogy többszöri sürgetés ellenére sem kapcsoltam Rákosi Mátyás miniszterelnök helyettes telefonját, bár erre az első hívás után 10 percen belül módom lett volna a rendező útján.

Beismerem, hogy az előbb említett alkalomkor visszahívtam az Újhatvani telefon központot, ahol a kezelőtől érdeklődtem, hogy mi történt Újhatvanban. Ugy megtudtam, hogy az Újhatvanban levő katolikus papokat ki akarják telepíteni, azonban a vallásos tömeg a kitelepítést megakadályozta.

"I was interned on 20 June 1950 for anti-democratic activities. I confess that in June 1950, on the day of the anti-democracy protest in Újhatvan, I was on night duty. During the night, at about 2 a.m., Lieutenant General Gábor Péter called from Hatvan and asked for the phone number of Deputy Prime Minister Mátyás Rákosi. He explicitly instructed me to put him through to Mátyás Rákosi immediately. I confess, however, that I did not put him through to Mátyás Rákosi. After the first call, there were several calls from Újhatvan urging me to do so. Gábor Péter, the head of the State Protection Authority, spoke into the receiver several times, and ordered me to put them through immediately. I confess that, despite being repeatedly urged to do so, I did not put them through to Deputy Prime Minister Mátyás Rákosi, although I could have done so within 10 minutes of the first call through the director."

Mrs József Hujber worked as a telephone operator during the protest in Újhatvan. Despite the request of Gábor Péter, the head of the political police, she could not immediately put him through to Mátyás Rákosi, the first man of the Communist Party. Moreover, she reported the events to her colleagues, and was imprisoned (interned) without trial.

FATHER RAFAEL KRISZTEN

Born on 19 November 1899 in Körösbánya, Transylvania, Ferenc Kriszten was ordained a priest in 1922, and, as a Franciscan monk, took the name Rafael. From 1940, he served in Pasarét, Budapest, and between 1941 and 1946, he was the prior of the Franciscan monastery on Margit Boulevard, Budapest. During the war, he was actively involved in saving lives and amidst the German occupation, he organised a network to rescue Jews, and tried to help the persecuted by issuing papers of safe conduct. Following the siege of Budapest, under the

leadership of Father Rafael Kriszten, the monks opened a soup kitchen, providing daily meals for more than 150 people. In August 1949, he became the head of the monastery in Újhatvan. It says a lot about the importance of his position that former priors and his brethren were arrested by the political police. He was taken from the monastery on 19 June 1950, and sentenced to life imprisonment on 26 May 1951. The brutal conditions made him ill, and he died in the Conti Street prison hospital on 15 September 1952, aged 53.



Father Rafael Ferenc Kriszten
(Hungarian Franciscan Library and Archives)

Főparancsnak Ur!

74 éves özvegyanyó Kriszten Rafael ferenc-
esbarát édesanya vagyok. Senkim sincs
itt, Magyarországon, csak az a fiam, akiről
5 hónapja nem tudok semmit.
Nem is tudom, hol van. Most azt halot-
tam, hogy Kistarcsán van.
Nagyon sajnén kérem a Főparancsnak Urat,
gondoljon jó édesanyjára és engedje meg, hogy
meglátoghassam az in drága fiamat.
Kértem neki meleg ruhát is venni, mert sa-
gony nek csak egy veseje van, féllek attól hogy meg-
hűl. Nagyon kérem, ne utasítson vissza engem
szegény kérencsetlen édesanyját.
Kérlek kedjék intéteni hogy hol és mikor lá-
togathatom meg a fiamat Kriszten Ferenc Rafaelt.

1950. 11/2.

Tisztelettel
özv. Kriszten Jánosné
Szarvas II. 67 szám.

Dear Commander-In-Chief, I am the 74-year-old mother of Franciscan monk Rafael Kriszten. I have no one here in Hungary except my son, of whom I've heard nothing for five months. I have no idea where he is. The last I heard he was in Kistarcsa. Please, Commander-in-Chief, think of your own mother and allow me to visit my dear son. I would also like to bring him some warm clothes, because the poor thing has only one kidney, and I'm afraid he will catch a cold. I'm a poor, unfortunate mother, please do not refuse my request. Please let me know where and when I can visit my son, Kriszten Ferenc Rafael. 2.11.1950 Yours faithfully, widowed Mrs János Kriszten Szarvas II. 67. (ÁBTL - 3.1.9. - V-46886)

ÁBTL - 3.1.9. - V-46886

One of the most defining events of 20th-century Hungarian history was the Revolution of '56 against the communist dictatorship and Soviet occupation that began on 23 October 1956. The revolution, which started as a peaceful demonstration on 23 October 1956 and turned into an armed uprising, was only crushed by the intervention of Soviet troops. The Soviets appointed János Kádár to lead the country, who reorganised the communist party into the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party (MSZMP). From January 1957, revolutionaries were imprisoned en masse, and many were executed. In the decades following the crushing of the revolution, the events of 1956 were branded as a counter-revolution by the party-state authorities.

The flag with the crowned coat of arms The flag with the crowned coat of arms was found next to the bodies of two students at Móricz Zsigmond Square. The young men were in the trenches and got involved in a clash with Soviet tanks, but could not defend themselves. Photographer György Makky was walking around the sites of the revolutionary capital from 23 October, and took the flag with him. As the reprisals after 1956 began, it became increasingly certain that he too would be arrested, so he hid the 1956 relic at a friend's, who kept it until the fall of communism, and then donated it to the Archives.

The flag found on the corner of Móricz Zsigmond Boulevard and Karinthy Frigyes Street, Budapest (ÁBTL – the legacy of György Makky) photograph: Dániel Kovalovszky

Young people distributing leaflets on Széna Square (ÁBTL – 4.1. – A-237) (Image collected by the political police, cut from a film made in 1956.)



Immediately after the Revolution of '56 was suppressed reprisals began, resulting in the execution of approximately 400 people, the imprisonment of more than 21,000 and the internment of 16,000–18,000. The aim of the old and new party leadership was deterrence, and to crush social solidarity. In December, during Advent, in both the provinces and in Budapest unarmed demonstrators were shot resulting in hundreds of deaths. Celebrating the memory of the revolution was not tolerated by the authorities, even in small circles. A young worker from Debrecen formed an “illegal” group with his secondary school friends in early 1957.

They planned to publish a newspaper titled “Unity”, and, at the same time, produced leaflets by hand and with rubber stamps to celebrate the Revolution. Three months after 23 October, they drafted a manifesto titled “An Appeal to the People of Debrecen!”, which was printed in thousands of copies and distributed in various places throughout the city. State security kept an eye on the group from its inception, and began arresting the members in March 1957, following the leaflet campaign. The court sentenced the boys, mostly secondary school pupils, to several years in prison on charges of plotting to overthrow the people's democratic state order.



Letterpress printing set (ÁBTL – 2.1. – III/10-o)



WOMEN

On 7 December 1958, the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party (MSZMP KB) issued a resolution on the collectivisation of agriculture. The persecution of landowning peasantry, classified as kulaks, and the forcing of people into farmers' agricultural cooperatives had already begun with the 1945 land distribution, however, it was not yet full-scale. During the revolution, one of the most important demands of rural Hungary was the abolition of the forcibly organised farmers' agricultural cooperatives. The resolution passed in the years of the reprisals from 1956 proclaimed the opposite: the comprehensive abolition of peasant society based on private property. The collectivisation campaign, which lasted until 1962, was conducted under pressure from the authorities. According to the resolution of 1949, anyone who "incited" against the cooperatives or hindered their formation could be punished by up to ten years in prison. Therefore, people rarely engaged in open conflict that would carry a major risk of being caught and instead engaged in more covert forms of resistance. A large number of leaflets and graffiti were written in protest against the organisation of cooperatives, and anonymous threatening and pleading letters were sent to the various authorities. One of the farmers' ways of defending themselves was to leave their homes upon hearing the arrival of the agitation brigades, and disappear for weeks. Occasionally, however, there were open conflicts, with fights breaking out in villages. For example, on 26 February 1960, in the village of Nyírcsaholy, Szabolcs-Szatmár County, with a population of three thousand, hundreds of desperate women marched up to the town hall to reclaim the entry forms that had been collected from the men. The protest was broken up by local and neighbouring armed men sent by the authorities. Arrests, interrogations and preparations for proceedings in the case started the next day. The court convicted five women for organising and actively participating in the protest in Nyírcsaholy, and two men for ringing the church bells to call for help for the villagers. They were sentenced to between four months and two years in prison for incitement against farmers' agricultural cooperatives. Another ten people were given a police warning. Even after the change in the political system, the intimidated women did not dare to talk about what had happened to them.

Photograph of Mrs Sándor Sváb at the protest and her mugshot
MNL SZSZBML XXV.21.b.53.d.387/1960
ÁBTL - 3.1.9. - V-147447

The Revolution and War of Independence that broke out on 15 March 1848 sought both individual human rights and national independence. It is no coincidence that the symbols of 1848 also appeared during the Hungarian Revolution of '56. After the Revolution was crushed, March 15, the day commemorating the 19th century struggles for freedom in Hungary, became a day of great anxiety for the communist regime. Both state security and society knew that the message of the holiday was twofold. Year after year, the political police had more and more problems with destroying the anniversary leaflets and quashing dissent. In 1970, a group of young people held their own commemoration at the statue of Lajos Kossuth in front of the Parliament. One of them wanted to recite the poem “National Song” by Sándor Petőfi, a piece closely linked to the revolution, and that was enough to get him arrested on charges of breach of the peace. In the following years, the protests continued to grow in size. On 15 March 1971, after the celebrations in Budapest and several

rural towns had turned into protests against the regime, mass riots took place, followed by harsh reprisals, prison sentences, dismissals and expulsions from school. In 1972, state security reported that “400–500 young people, organised in small groups, visited the 1848 memorial sites”. A veritable “game of tag” developed between the police and the demonstrators. Arrests were made throughout the day. In 1973, in Budapest, a crowd chanting anti-regime slogans and visiting the memorial sites was over a thousand strong. The police used force but to little effect, and they only managed to “clear” the city by evening. Severe reprisals were inflicted this time as well. Afterwards, the authorities did their utmost to prevent similar events, and were only able to ensure that no major demonstrations took place on the anniversary by implementing numerous preventive measures and mobilising a large armed force. Nevertheless, from the second half of the 1980s, clashes between the police and the protestors became a regular occurrence.



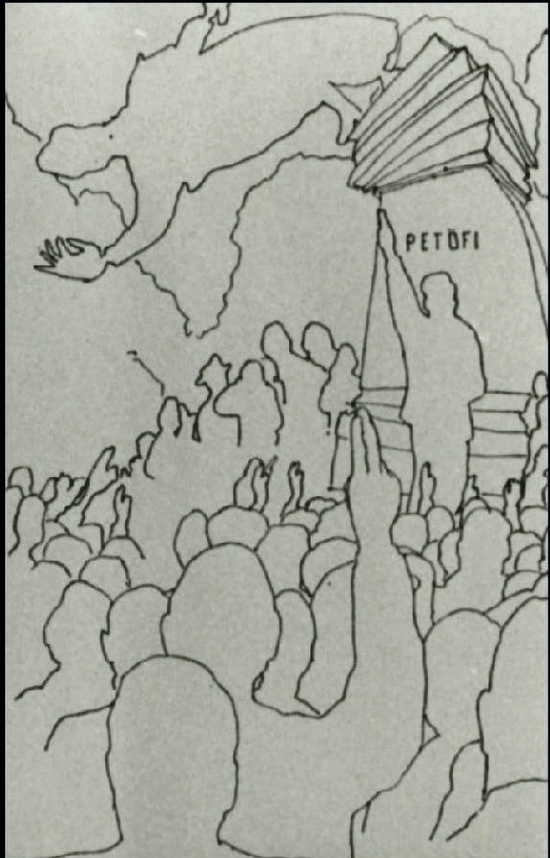
15 March 1972
(ÁBTL – 3.1.9. – V-159241/7)

From the early 1970s, after the reprisals following the revolution, groups opposed to the regime were increasingly vocal. The avant-garde art circles formed an important basis for the opposition. Such was the case with a group of young artists from Szolnok who joined the worldwide “mail-art” movement in the mid-1970s, and whose members were kept under close surveillance by state security. They got their name, Inconnu, from the way they evaded the authorities: in their letters, the addressee’s address was given incorrectly, however, the sender’s address was correct, so there was a chance that the letter would be sent back to the sender marked “Return to Sender – Inconnu”. By 1981, the harassment by the authorities had become intolerable for the members, and they moved their headquarters to Budapest. Here, they became involved in the work of the opposition organised around samizdat publications, and they considered György Krassó, one of the leading figures of the opposition of the period, their main mentor. In the summer of 1986, the group issued an appeal to artists worldwide to submit works that evoked the struggles of 1956. Some of the artworks did not even reach the organisers. Those that did were confiscated by state security on the morning of the opening of the exhibition. On this day, on 28 January 1987, in a gallery inside a private apartment, the exhibition “The fighting city” opened, however, the only thing that was on display instead of the artworks was the confiscation document.



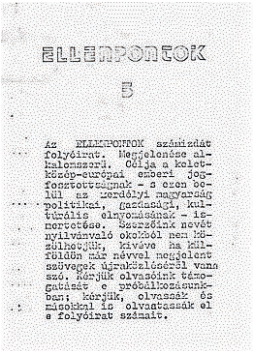
György Krassó in his home, with Ágnes Háy (1984);
photograph: Tibor Philipp (Fortepan)

One of the confiscated paintings of the exhibition.
Ágnes Háy /GB – London/ Illustration I
(ÁBTL – 4.1. – A-2020)

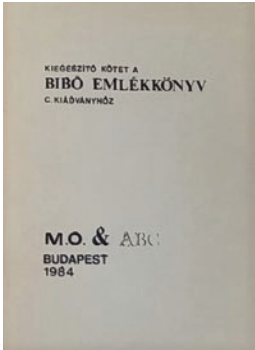


“Samizdat” was the name given to illegal publications that bypassed the official publishing procedures required under the communist regime. Although samizdat literature existed in Hungary in the 1950s, these types of works began to appear in

greater numbers in the second half of the 1970s, mainly in connection with the so-called democratic opposition. The publications were texts reproduced on typewriters, and later by stencilling or actual printing presses.



“Diary”, a “private” samizdat launched at the end of 1977 upon the initiative of Mihály Kornis, was not a journal, only an internal forum of opposition intellectuals. The so-called Pala Street Society was responsible for the publication and organisation of “Diary”. The Society included Miklós Sulyok, György Petri, Géza Fodor, Szabolcs Várady, György and Rimma Dalos, Aliz Mosonyi, András Jele, Mihály Kornis and many others. Nearly a hundred people became involved in writing the “Diary(s)”, and in 1982, the state security services confiscated the copies they knew about. Fortunately, some of them have survived in the hands of private individuals.

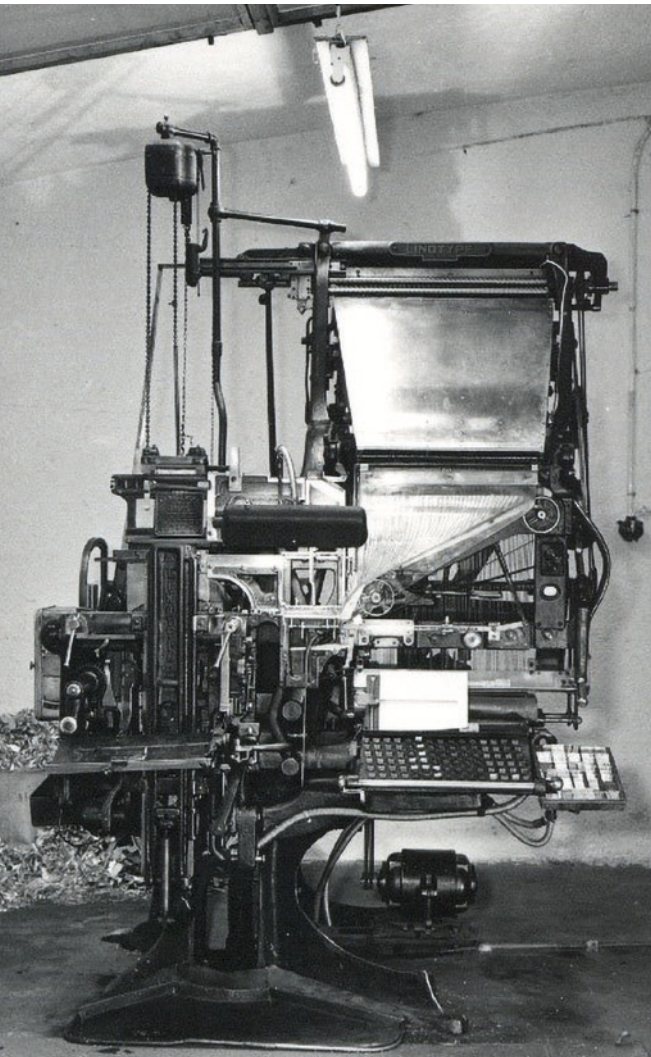


People left Hungary in several waves of political emigration, and keeping track of Hungarians emigrating to the West was one of the main tasks of the Hungarian state defence services. Emigrants tried to keep Hungarian culture alive with journals,

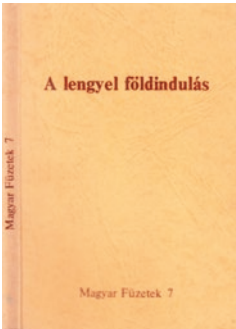
intellectual workshops and public debates, all of them independent of the dictatorship. The political police not only kept the editorial offices under surveillance, but also tried to prevent emigrant publications in Hungary.



The plate of the newspaper on display, the “National Guard”, symbolises the hundreds of emigrant newspapers, publications and books. (ÁBTL – III – 1.19. the legacy of Zoltán Makra)

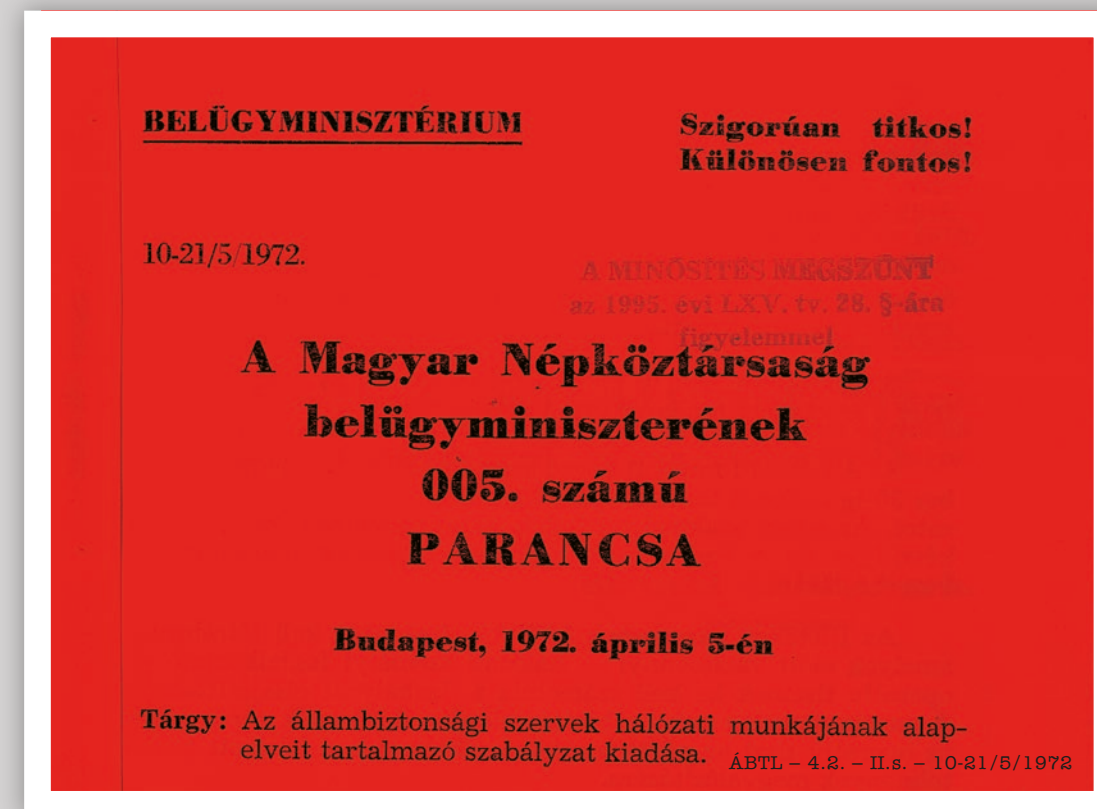


Photograph of the printing press of the editorial office of the “National Guard” (ÁBTL – III. – 1.19. the legacy of Zoltán Makra)



giving and obtaining information

GIVING AND OBTAINING INFORMATION [THE NETWORK OF AGENTS]



Order No. 005/1972 (IV.5.) of the Minister of Interior of the Hungarian People's Republic on
the Basic Principles of the Networking Work of the State Security Services.

In the course of its work, state security relied heavily on secret collaborators, who could be occasional informers, official or social contacts, or recruited networkers managed by operations officers. The latter was called the agency or network of agents, and from 1972, simply (state security) network. The network was seen as the most important secret operational intelligence-gathering tool, providing the political police with a much deeper intelligence capability than any other. The basic principles of networking work were established by 1950, largely on the basis of Soviet models. From then on, the network of agents was made up of people of different qualities and qualifications. Until 1972, three categories were distinguished according to function, task and use. The agent worked among enemy individuals and groups, and was recruited from there. Informants were reliable, loyal to the regime, and involved in external detection and observation of enemy activity. Residents were secret state security

collaborators who managed a group of informers under the supervision of an officer. From 1972 onwards, the members of the network were classified according to the content of their links with state security and their level of cooperation, which also led to the establishment of three categories. Secret collaborators were the most qualified members of the network, who worked for the political police out of a principled, patriotic conviction and proved capable of carrying out more complex network tasks. Secret delegates also cooperated with state security out of a principled, patriotic conviction, however, their abilities and the possibilities open to them limited their scope of action, and their main task was to gather information. Agents took part in the secret cooperation due to incriminating or compromising information, possibly for financial gain, i.e. for their own personal interest, which determined their scope of action. Informants and secret delegates always made up the largest part of the network.

The members of the network reported the information they had obtained in reports, which were written or given to the case officer at the agent meetings. The case officer also determined the member's next task.

BEÜGYMINISZTERIUM
III/III-1/A. Alosztály

"SZIGORUAN TITKOS!"

ADTA: "Maróti Lajos" fn. tmb.
VETTE: Mezei Károly r.örgy.
IDŐ: 1977. szept. 7.
HELY: "Salamon" fn. "K" lakás

TÁRGY: Bécsi UCIP Kongresszus

J E L E N T É S

Budapest, 1977. szeptember 8.

Karl Theo Schree, a wiesbadeni KNA vezetője köszönő levelet írt Budapest-i tartózkodása után.

Közölte, hogy a bécsi UCIP kongresszuson találkozni fogok Ruth Baronnal, Luitpold Dorn-nal a KNA római szerkesztőjével és Frau Treffert-tel, aki a magyar hívekkel is foglalkozik Bonnban.

"Maróti Lajos"

É r t é k e l é s :

A jelentés operatív értékű, melyből kitűnik, hogy kik fogják képviselni a KNA hírugynökséget az UCIP bécsi kongresszuson.

F e l a d a t :

Igyekezzen kapcsolatot teremteni, a korábban már hazánkban járt Treffert asszonnyal.

Mezei Károly
Mezei Károly r.örgy.

Készült: 2 pld-ban
Kapja: 1 "M" do.
1 "OD-4209.
Nytsz.: 1/13-690

ÁBTL - 3.1.2. - M-38914

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
Subdivision III/III-1/A. "TOP SECRET!"

SUBMITTED BY: Secret delegate

under the code name "Lajos Maróti"

RECEIVED BY: Police Major Károly

Mezei

DATE: 7 September 1977
LOCATION: A "K" apartment under

the code name "Solomon"

SUBJECT: UCIP Congress in Vienna

REPORT
Budapest, 8 September 1977

Karl Theo Schree, head of the KNA in Wiesbaden, wrote a letter of thanks after his stay in Budapest. He stated that at the UCIP Congress in Vienna, he would meet Ruth Baron, Luitpold Dorn, who organises the KNA in Rome, and Frau Treffert, who also works with Hungarian followers in Bonn.

"Lajos Maróti"

Evaluation:
The report has an operational value, indicating who will represent the KNA news agency at the UCIP Congress in Vienna.

Task:
Try to establish contact with Frau Treffert, who has already visited our country.
Police Major Károly Mezei
Compiled: in two copies
Received by: 1 "M" do.
1 "OD-4209.
Reg. no.: 1/13-690

Report from the working dossier of secret delegate Lajos Maróti (code name) on the UCIP - Union Catholique Internationale de la Presse (International Catholic Union of the Press) - Congress in Vienna.

The report was submitted by a secret delegate to the operations officer at a "K" apartment under the code name "Solomon".

BEÜGYMINISZTERIUM
III/III-1/A. alosztály

SZIGORUAN TITKOS!

Begedélyezem:

Baranyai György r.ezredes
Főcsoportfőnök helyettes

Dr. Dénes István r.alezredes Elvtárs
BM. Külügyi Osztály Vezetőjének!

Alosztályunk ügynökségének tartása céljából a BM.Külügyi Osztály 1963. szeptember 9-én kiutalta az "Otthon" fn. Bp.VII., Hársfa-u. 5. II.em. 2. szám alatt lévő kettő szoba, komfortos lakást.

Fent nevezett lakás az elmúlt hetekben dekonspirálódott.

Figyelembevéve a dekonspirációt továbbá, hogy a lakást már 7 éve használjuk konspirációs célra, - kérjük a Külügyi Osztályt, hogy az "Otthon" fn. "K"-lakás lecserélését, lehetőleg sürgősen hajtsa végre.

Fenti "K"-lakásban magasbeosztású papi ügynökséggel találkozzunk, ezért kérjük, hogy hasonló minőségű lakással oldják meg a cserét.

A lakás lehetőleg a pesti oldal belső kerületeiben, vagy a METRO-val könnyen megközelíthető helyen legyen, és elhelyezkedése ha lehet könnyítse a konspirációt.

Az "Otthon" fn. "K"-lakás helyett kiutalt új lakást is, alosztályunk részéről Mezei Károly r.örgy. /tel.: 23-24/ fogja legalizálni.

Fentiek alapján kérjük az "Otthon" fn. "K"-lakás lecserélését.

B u d a p e s t , 1970. augusztus 1.

Geréb Sándor r.ezr.
osztályvezető

dr.Pálfi József r.alezr.
alosztályvezető

ÁBTL - 3.1.3. - IV/21/K

Subject: Replacement of the "K" apartment under the

code name "Home"
Authorised by:
Police Colonel György Baranyai
Deputy Head of Department
To Comrade Police Lieutenant Colonel Dr István Dénes
Head of Department of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Ministry of Interior

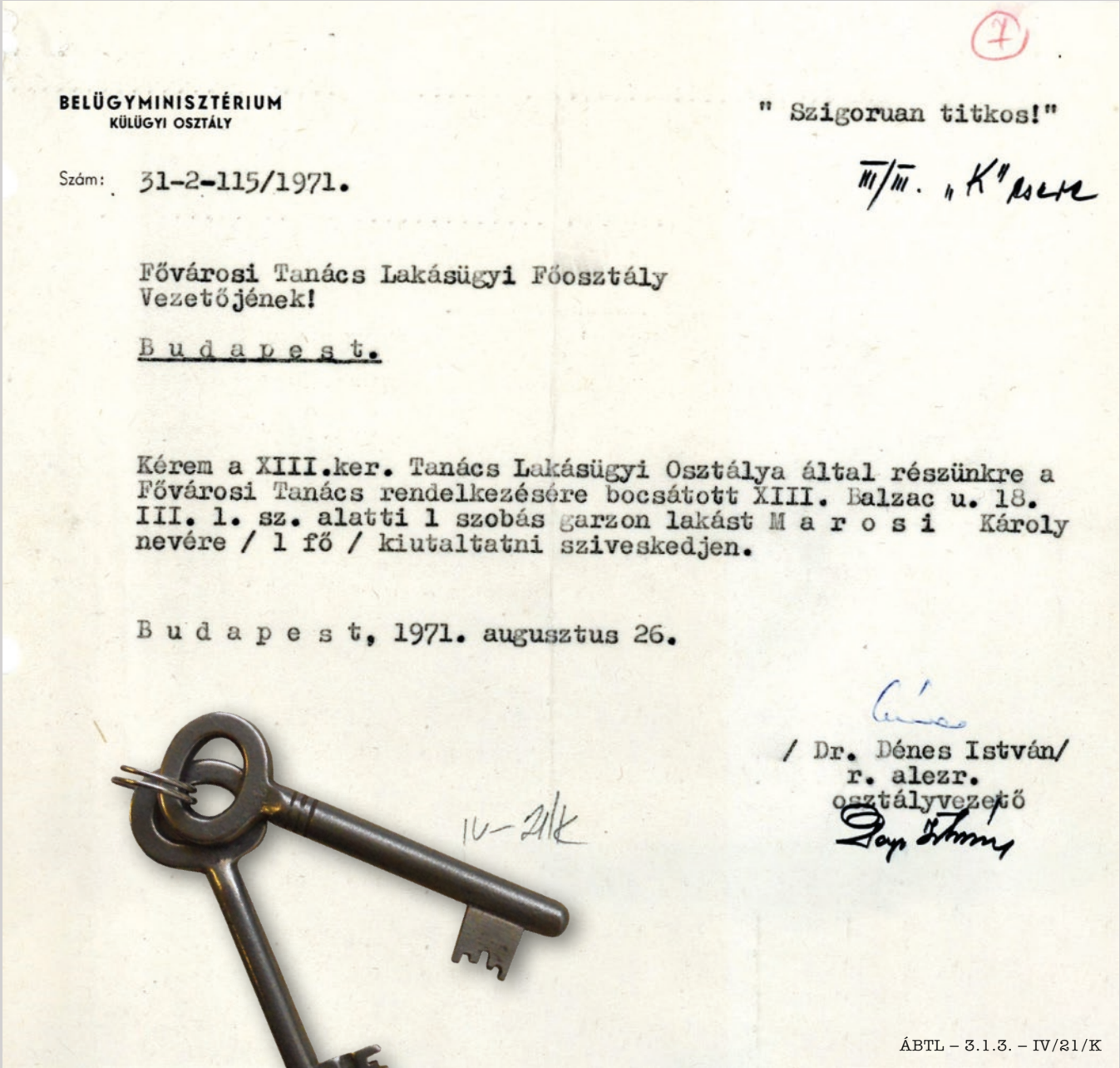
In order to maintain the agency of our subdivision, the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Ministry of Interior allocated a two-room, fully equipped apartment at 5 Hársfa Street, 2nd floor, apt. 2, district 7, Budapest on 9 September 1963.

The above-mentioned apartment has in recent weeks been exposed. Considering the above and the fact that the apartment has been used for seven years for secret service purposes, we request that the Department of Foreign Affairs replace the "K" apartment under the code name

"Home" as soon as possible. We are going to meet a high-ranking clerical agency in the "K" apartment above, therefore, we request a replacement apartment of similar quality. The apartment should preferably be in the inner districts of the Pest side, or easily accessible by the metro. Its location, if possible, should facilitate secret service purposes.

The new apartment allocated as a replacement of the "K" apartment under the code name "Home" will be legalised by Police Major Károly Mezei / tel.: 23-24/ on behalf of our subdivision. On the basis of the above, we request the replacement of the "K" apartment under the code name "Home".
Budapest, 1 August 1970
Police Colonel Sándor Geréb Police Lieutenant Dr József Pálfi
Head of Department Head of Subdivision

Agent meetings could take place in public places, such as cafés or outdoors, however, the T (meeting) and K (conspiracy) apartments were the most suitable for successful meetings. The former were made available to state security by an agreement between the owner or tenant, while the latter were owned by the Ministry of Interior.

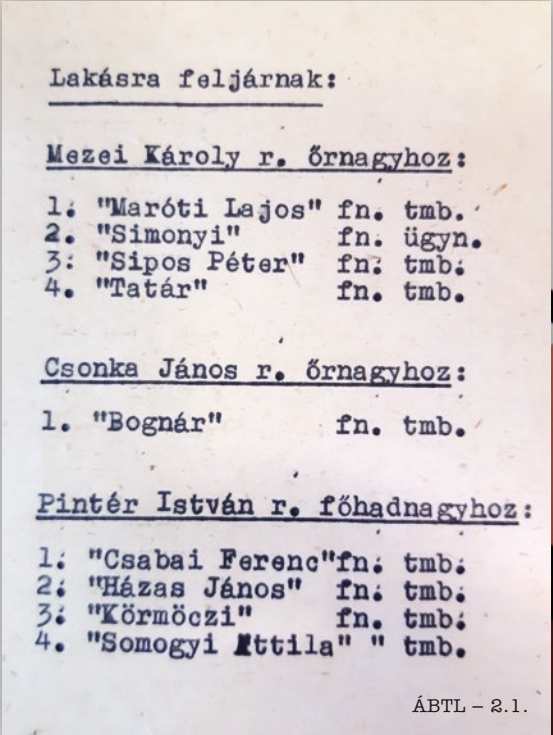
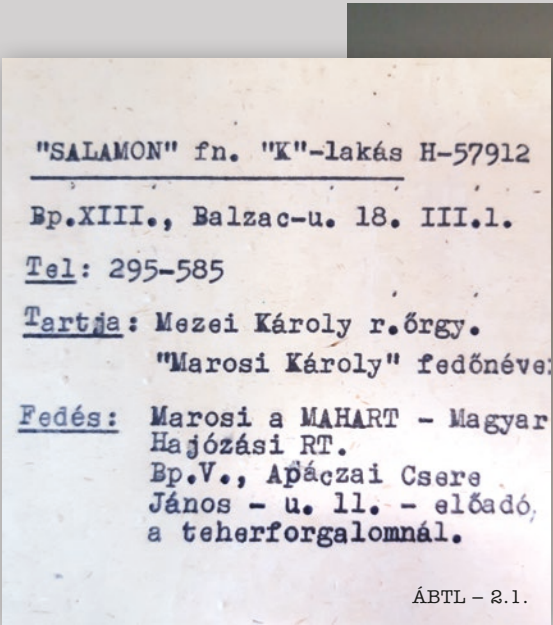


According to the document shown here, the Ministry of Interior's front organisation, the Department of Foreign Affairs, requests that the Head of the Housing Department of the Metropolitan Council allocate the 3rd floor, one-room apartment at 18 Balzac Street, district 13, Budapest, to Károly Marosi.

The allocated apartment was used by the Ministry of Interior. Due to secret service considerations, "K" apartments could never be officially owned by the Ministry of Interior, the owner (tenant) was a fictitious character, in this case, Károly Marosi, impersonated by a state security officer. The allocated apartment was known merely as "Salamon".

Keys to the "K" apartment under the code name "Salamon" (ÁBTL - 2.1.)

During this era, one of the ways for people and families to get housing was the allocation of local government flats, which could be applied for by submitting an application to the District Housing Departments of the Metropolitan Council. The Metropolitan Council had a say in the designation of sites and the allocation of flats, however, not in the number of flats built. Those with the closest ties to the authorities (members of the party and state apparatus, members of power-enforcement organisations, or those working directly for the authorities) had prioritised access to nationalised housing.



File and entrance to the apartment under the code name "Salamon"

photograph: Dániel Kovalovszky

The file at the top shows that Police Major Károly Mezei was "Károly Marosi", freight traffic manager of MAHART (Magyar Hajózási Rt.). The file below lists the names of the state security officers who visited the apartment. Under the officers are the code names of the members of the network (secret delegates, agents) they received.

The apartment under the code name "Salamon" was used by the Catholic Church Division of the Internal Prevention Subdepartment III/III from 1971 until the dissolution of the organisation in 1990.

IV-21 ARJEGYZÉK

A Bp.XIII.Balzac u.18.III.1.szám alatti lakást 1988-ban rendeztük be az alábbi berendezési és felszerelési tárgyakkal, akkori értékben:

butorzat:	29.000,-Ft
laksáfelszerelés:	12.600,- "
konyhafelszerelés:	6.800,- "
szőnyeg, textil:	10.500,- "
háztartási gépek:	8.990,- "
Összesen:	67.890,-Ft-ért.

Jelenlegi értéke a fenti összeg 40 %-a, kerekítve:

27.200,-Ft, azaz

Huszonhétezerkétszáz/oo forint.

A megállapított összeg kifizetését vállalom. A kapott csekken, 15 napon belül befizetem.

Tudomásul veszem, hogy a TV készüléket és tartozékait a Külügyi Osztály visszaszavételezi. *Be kell szállítani*

Budapest, 1990.május 15.n

T. 13-026
Balogh Sándor
 /: Balogh Sándor :/
 új bérlet

ÁBTL - 3.1.3. - IV/21/K

Documents relating to the maintenance of apartments used by state security were also compiled in dossiers.

In 1990, after the apartment was no longer in use by state security, an agreement was reached with the new tenant to assess how much had been spent on furnishings (furniture, fixtures, kitchen equipment, carpets, textiles, household appliances) in 1988. The fixtures and equipment were valued at HUF 67,890. The new tenant – an employee of the Ministry of Interior – was able to purchase these for 40% of their value in 1990. The TV and its accessories were, however, returned to the Department of Foreign Affairs. (In 1988, the average monthly salary was net HUF 6,984.)

“The aim is to furnish the apartments in a friendly way, with decent furniture,” says a textbook on state security. “Keeping the apartments clean and tidy is important,” the book states. “It is essential that the apartments are clean and tidy when the agent arrives. It is very unpleasant and demeaning to have a conversation with the members of the agency in a dirty, dusty, airless room.”



Scene from the film titled “Secret Collaborator”.
 Police film, 1968. Length: 1:88:08 (ÁBTL—4.9.-F—1/11.)

WHAT WAS THE RECRUITMENT PROCESS? [Excerpt from an educational film of the time]

This educational film made by the Ministry of Interior’s Department of Studies and Methodology describes the process of agent recruitment. The main character counterfeits travelling expense accounts after getting into debt from gambling. His crime is then exploited to make him inform on the “enemy”.

Although the film is about the network building activities of the police, the recruitment carried out by state security was carried out in a similar way. This excerpt shows how, after an interrogation report has been made, the errant criminal is coerced into cooperating with the police, and forced to sign a recruitment declaration.

they see us
and hear us

THEY SEE US AND HEAR US [SECRET METHODS]

In addition to the network of agents, the political police relied on operational technical equipment to control people or to thwart the activities of enemy secret services. The range of methods used was quite wide ranging: covert people tracking and environmental surveillance, wiretapping and room bugging, monitoring the post, secret house searches,

radio detection or even the production of false identity cards and documents. At the beginning of this era, the use of these methods was significantly affected by a lack of experts and equipment, however, as time went by, the secret surveillance of the daily lives of the targeted individuals became more efficient.



A letter opener, a device used for the opening of letters with steam (ÁBTL);
photograph: Mihály Várai

INSPECTION OF POSTAL SHIPMENTS

Before 1956, secret monitoring of the post was called “T” and then “K control”. The political police used this method to detect the possession of foreign propaganda materials or “enemy” publications, contact with intelligence agents, or to control their own agents. Original letters and parcels were only confiscated in justified cases; they were instead opened and then photographed or an extract of the contents was taken after which they were resealed. The letters, telegrams and parcels were secretly inspected by the political police in a few designated post offices. Incoming and outgoing post from and to foreign countries, as well as post dropped into street post-boxes in Budapest, was opened using steam at

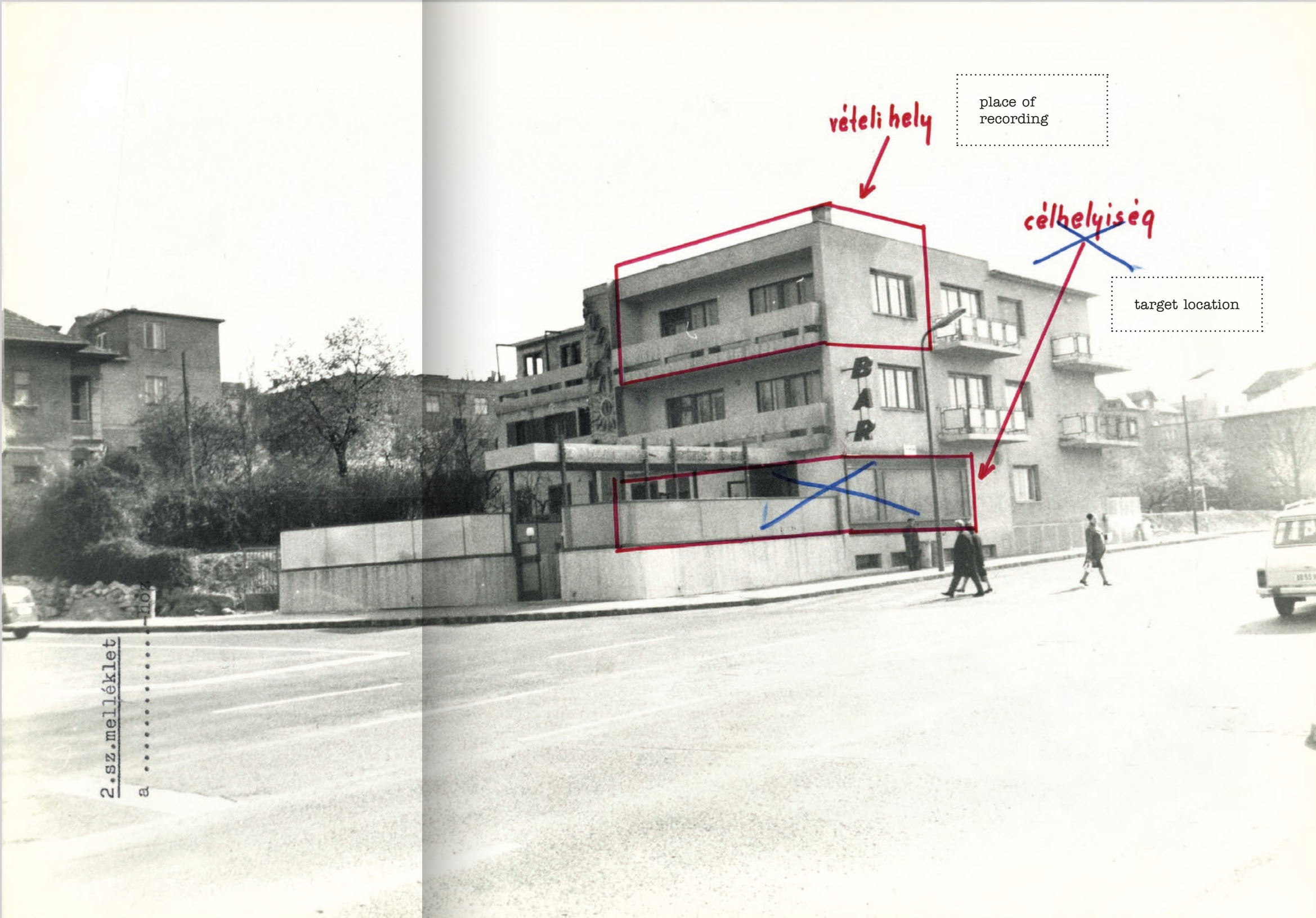
post office no. 62 at Nyugati Railway Station and post office no. 72 next to Keleti Railway Station. Letters posted in rural areas were examined at the post offices of county capitals and larger cities. These were opened using a special technique, and the information within was evaluated after being read, and occasionally, photographed. Finally, as if nothing had happened, the envelopes were resealed. Initially, the political police tried to filter out and find letters with content deemed dangerous within the framework of general checks (“fishing”), then, from the 1960s onwards, they examined the letters of specific individuals and groups, and introduced “filtering and research” work on these target groups.

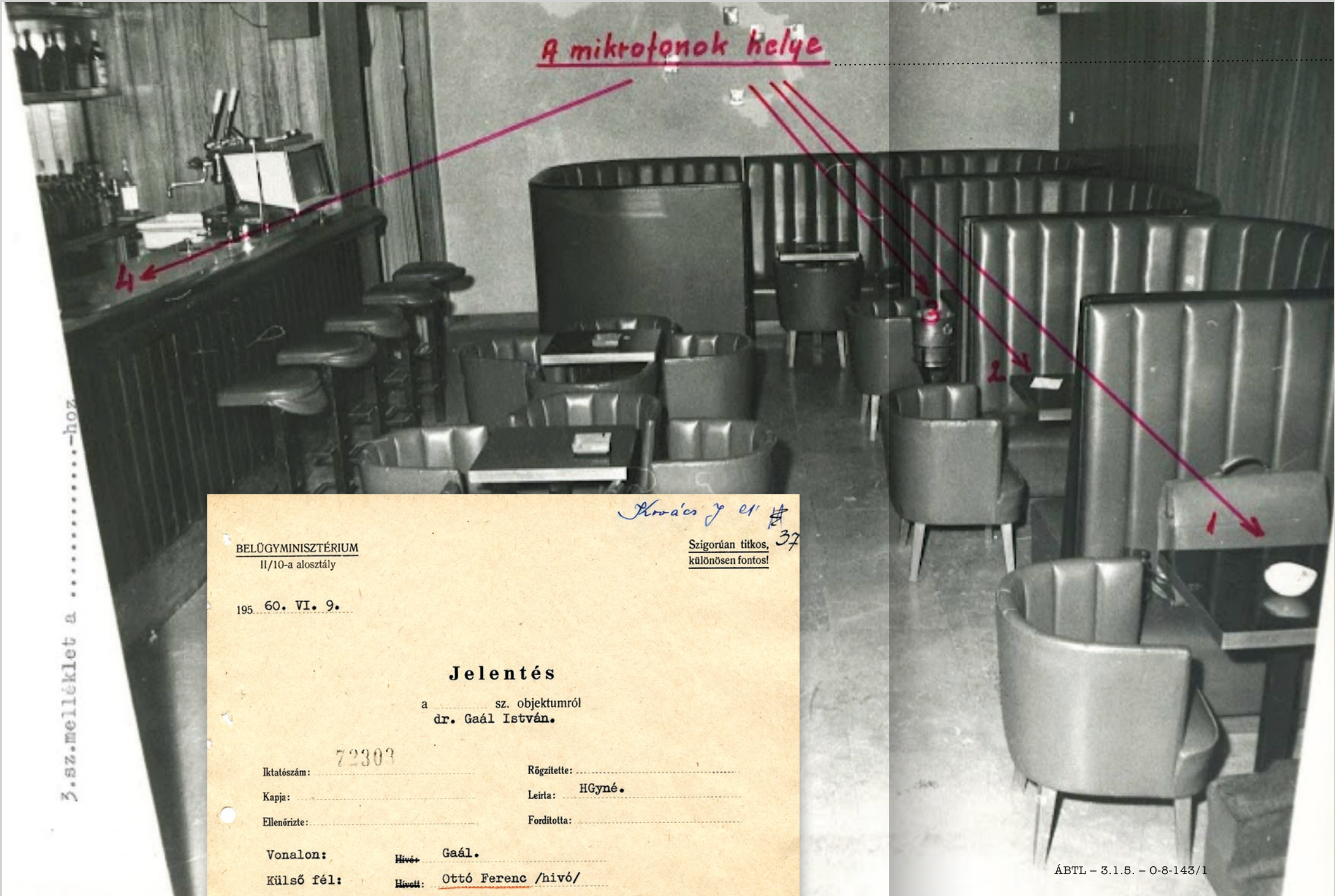
[WIRETAPPING]

Monitoring “targets” often involved listening in on their conversations. The devices used for this purpose were concealed in the telephone or in various pieces of furniture (ashtrays, desk drawers, picture frames, vases) in the homes or offices of the people under surveillance. In addition, portable tape recorders were also sometimes used. Planting the devices was carried out on the basis of an installation plan, which had to include the place of recording (target location), a description of the chosen operational technique, as well as a cover story for the installation: for example, the participants in the operation would pose as repairmen. Wiretapping reports were compiled on the recorded conversations.

Located on the corner of Hegyalja and Sándor Street, the house under the code name “House of Cupid” was established in 1968 to place Western businessmen under surveillance and to compromise them.

Photograph from the operational technical equipment installation plan, Annex 2. (ÁBTl – 3.1.5. – 0-8- 143/1)





place of
microphones

Operational technical equipment was installed in the exclusive “Italian-looking” nightclub and the adjacent hostel. The obtained audio files containing confidential or intimate information was then typed out.

[...]
On the line: Gaál
External line: Ferenc Ottó (caller)
Date of recording: 3 May, 8:12 a.m.
language: Hungarian
G: Hello.
O: Hello, Pista.
G: Hi.
O: I've just arrived from Gödöllő.
G: Yes.
O: Pista, I'm free tomorrow night, and I'd like to talk to you tomorrow. Are you free?
G: We aren't home tomorrow evening, but might be in the afternoon. It's agreed that tomorrow afternoon at 3 p.m. Otto will visit Gaál. They'll be saying goodbye.

Report on a case of wiretapping in 1960.

3.sz.melléklet a-hoz

Kovács J. 21. # 37

BELÜGYMINISZTERIUM
II/10-a alosztály

195 60. VI. 9.

Szigorúan titkos,
különösen fontos!

Jelentés

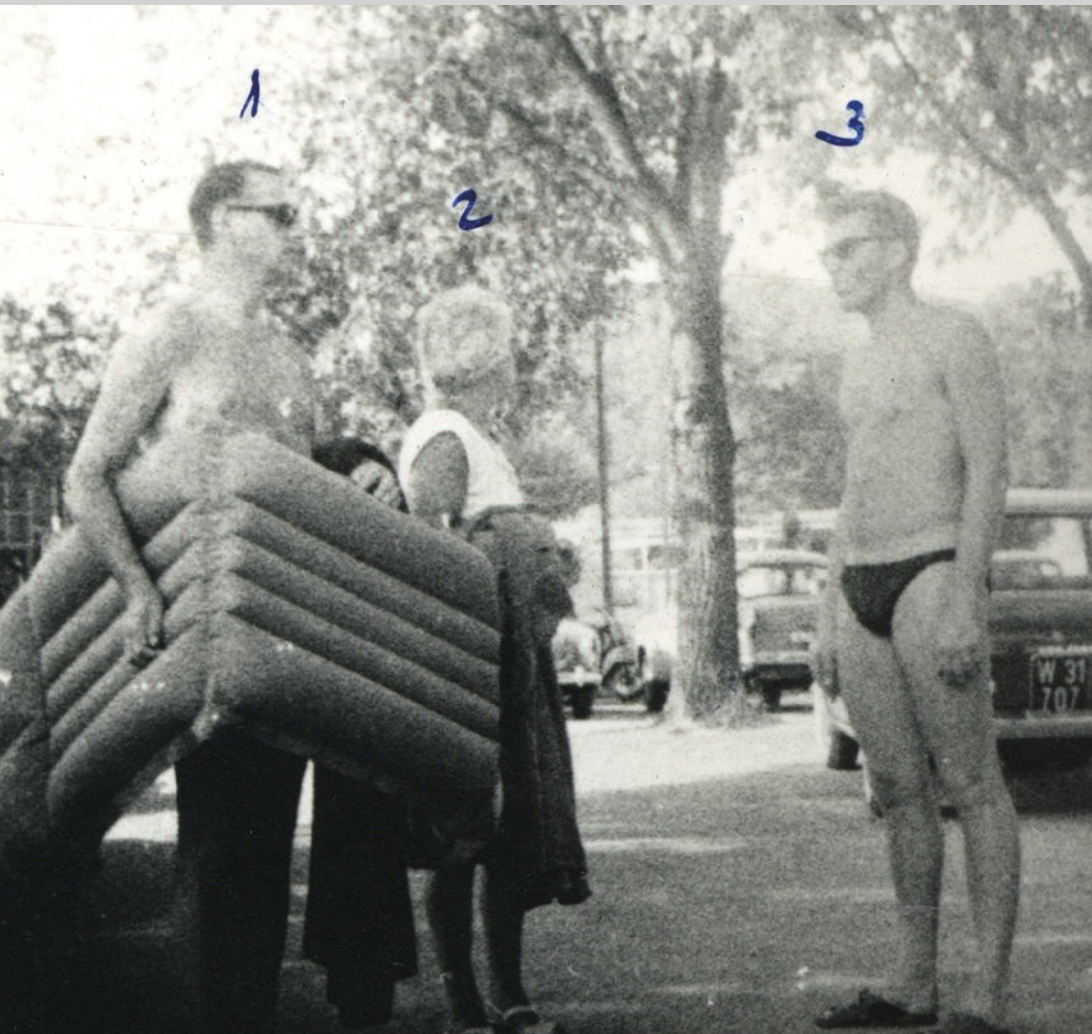
a sz. objektumról
dr. Gaál István.

Iktatószám: 72303 Rögzítette:
Kapja: Leírta: HGyné.
Ellenőrizte: Fordította:

Vonalon: Hívó Gaál.
Külső fél: Hívott: Ottó Ferenc /hívó/
Felvétel ideje: VI. 3. 8,12 h
Nyelv: magyar

G: Halló.
O: Szervusz Pista.
G: Szervusz.
O: Most érkeztem be Gödöllőről.
G: Igen.
O: Te Pistám, holnap este ráérek és holnap szeretném, hogyha beszélgethetnénk. Lehet?
G: Csak hogy holnap mi nem vagyunk itthon, este, de délután esetleg igen.
Megbeszéljük, hogy holnap délután 3 órakor Ottó felkeresi Gaált.
Elköszönnek.

ÁBTÍ - 3.1.5. - 0-11803/7



1. "Moha"
2. "Feleség"
his wife
3. "Gyerek"
foreign friend

In: Report
9 on "Moha"

photographed:
In Tihany,
in front of
the Motel

1. "Moha"
2. "Feleség"
3. "Gyerek" külföldi barátja.

szerepel: "Moha" 9. jelentésében.

készült: Tihanyban a Motel előtt.

ÁBTL - 3.1.5. - 0-12344/14

Photograph taken during the tracking of a "target" and its back cover.

[SURVEILLANCE]

Over the years, many methods of surveillance of "targets" emerged, ranging from spying from secret properties to camouflage techniques and mobile

tracking. After such cases of monitoring, a written report was compiled on what had been observed, often supplemented by photographs or, later, on film.

BELÜGYMINISZTERIUM

II/9. III/V/I-b. alosztály

69/1538-4 63.

„Szigorúan titkos!”

Figyelés kezdete: 7.00 h.
Figyelés vége: 23.00 h.

9. számú JELENTÉS

„M o h a „ figyeléséről

BM. III/II. Csfség.
Tihany, 3. augusztus 3.
Budapest, 196

SZIGORÚAN TITKOS	
Küldő szám: 40-31-355/63	Lapok száma.
Összet: VIII/13	Ügyintéző:
nak	

[...]

15.00 h-kor "Moha" kék fürdőköpenyben, bordó fürdő nadrágban, drapp szándálban "Feleség" társaságában kijött a MOTEL-ből és lassu-léptekkel a strandra mentek, ahol többször megfürödve, napoztak, majd több fényképfelvételt készítettek. "Moha" a fürdés és napozás közben is figyelmesen nézegette a körülötte lévő embereket.

17.45 h-kor "Moha" felvette fürdőköpenyét és "Feleség" társaságában

17.50 h-kor bementek a MOTEL-ba. /Nem köv./

[...]

/: Földesi Jenő r.örgy.: /: Balázs János r.örgy.: /
osztályvezető. alosztályvezető.

Nyt.sz: 672/e-
G: Tj-né. 3 pld. 3 oldal.
K: 1 " III/II. Csfség. 3/a. aloszt. Som elvt.
2 " III/V. Csfség. I. oszt.

ÁBTL - 3.1.5. - 0-12344/14

Report
on surveillance
of a café
on "Moha"
(extract)

[...]

At 3 p.m., "Moha", in a blue bathrobe, burgundy swimming trunks and beige sandals, came out of the MOTEL with "Feleség", and walked slowly to the beach, where they sunbathed, went into the lake several times, and took several photos. Even while swimming and sunbathing, "Moha" kept a watchful eye on the people around him.

At 5:45 p.m., "Moha" put on his bathrobe, and in the company of "Feleség",

at 5:50 p.m., went into the MOTEL. /Did not follow them./[...]

The base of the "observers" charged with the surveillance of individuals was not in the known buildings of the Ministry of Interior, but in the so-called conspiracy areas, for which various fictitious or real companies provided the legal framework. The investigators used (cover) documents to prove their current role in the operations. They were able to impersonate park workers in city parks and playgrounds, lovers embracing, somebody engaged in a sporting activity, tourists, a young person reading on a bench or lying on the lawn, a fishermen on the water's edge, a policeman in

a busy, public place, or even somebody counting traffic employed by the local transport company. In the case of surveillance lasting for a longer period of time, even for weeks, the following methods proved to be useful: in cities, sewerage work, and in the countryside, "drilling" various exploratory boreholes, and conducting military exercises or camping with military uniforms and equipment. A separate category included observation sites that could be set up quickly using vehicles, but could only provide a short-term solution, such as broken-down, waiting or parked cars.



Clip from a tracking film made in 1966, seen through a stereoscope
(ÁBTL – 4.9. F-II/7/S Annex 1 to dossier no. K-1783, codenamed “Báró”)

Pedestrians would sometimes be followed in a “chain formation”, i.e. observers were behind the target, or on the same route, on both sides of the road, in a car or on a motorbike. They could use streets parallel to the subject’s direction of movement, and in large spaces, they could use “forking” tactics, where they would “surround” the target from the right and left and from behind. When stationary surveillance of moving persons was carried out, operations officers equipped with

transceivers in fixed positions waited for the target to pass. “K” and “T” apartments were also used for covert surveillance, as these properties were not only used to host members of the network, but also for periodic surveillance of targets and objects. A report was compiled on what was seen during the tracking and the progress of the movement. The production of visual documentation of the highest possible quality was expected, which, in a technical sense, sometimes proved to be difficult.



The “Grasshopper” in action and the portable wooden suitcase (ÁBTL)
photographs: Eszter Tóth

“THE GRASSHOPPER”

The photograph shows a Soviet-made portable reproduction camera called „Ёлка, Yolka, Jelka”, with a folding tripod and lights. Due to its shape, the document copier with a camera was nicknamed “Grasshopper” by Hungarian state security.

It was typically used in secret searches to make large numbers of photocopies quickly and covertly. It was also used to monitor post for sidelight scanning and copying. (Sidelight shows, for example, the unevenness of the surface of the page, overpainting, watermarks, indentations, etc.)



The "Grasshopper" folded up

The document copier had an A4 sized table. It had one long bulb of about 100 Watts on each side, which heated up considerably during extended use. In such cases, due to the overheated metal parts, it was difficult to fold up the equipment.



Scene from the film "The application of operational technical rules and methods", made by the Ministry of Interior's film studio (ÁBTL)

220 volts powered the lights. In the centre, at the top of the stand is the camera. 400 negative images (18x24 mm) could be taken using self-loaded film holders. (Originally, the output was 100 shots.) The film holder contained low-sensitivity black and white reproduction film (10 ASA). Film transfer was

mechanical and had to be wound by hand. Exposure was carried out with an exposure cord, but the camera also had a foot pedal, which worked faster and didn't occupy the user's hand. The exposed films were developed by the former services in their own laboratories, using their own equipment.

Under lock and key

UNDER LOCK AND KEY CONFESS! [THE INSPECTION]

Secret investigations were followed by the public investigation phase, meaning that the political police investigated with public methods. The purpose

of this was to obtain the evidence necessary for prosecution. Public investigation procedures included arresting suspects, and interrogating them etc.

Államvédelmi Hatóság.
VI/4-osztály.

Szigoruan bizalmas!

Szolgálati jegy
Budapest, 1953. március 3.

Zsidi ezredes elvtárs utasítására az alábbi három személyt helyezze el a fogdában:

Őrizetesként: Schmidt Sándort a 116-os cellába,
Heinrich Henriket a 118-as cellába,

Előállítottként: Dzsida Lászlót a 211-es számú cellába.

Kiss László
áv.szds.

Fogda Parancsnokának!

ÁBTL - 3.1.9. - V-110208/35

A service ticket, dated 3 March 1953, addressed to the Detention Centre Commander, stating that three persons, including Sándor Schmidt, had been placed in the detention room.

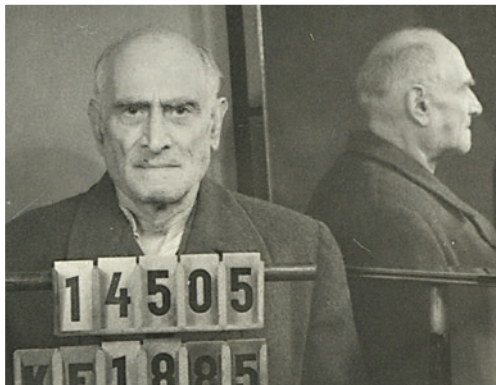
Mugshots from the case
Warrant no. 00563 of 18 March 1953 on the
arrest of Sándor Schmidt and on the searches
carried out of his home and workplace.



Zoltán Esztók
(ÁBTL – 3.1.9. – V-110208/41)



Imre Hansági
(ÁBTL – 3.1.9. – V-110208/1)



Ferenc Kelemen
(ÁBTL – 3.1.9. – V-110208/28)

102-2044/53.

ÁLLAMVÉDELMI HATÓSÁG

60563 sz. HATÁROZAT

A határozat felmutatóját megbízom, hogy a B. P. 98., 169. és 177. §-ai alapján

Schmidt Sándor
név

2p II, Dorozska u 17
lakost
cím

állítsa elő és tartson lakásán és munkahelyén ház-
kutatást.

Az Államvédelmi Hatóság
Vezetője rendeletéből:

P. H.
név, rendfokozat

aláírás

Budapest, 1953. 3. 18.

ÁBTL – 3.1.9. – V-110208/35

Decision on house search made on March 18, 1953
and on the apprehension of Sándor Schmidt

An investigation was launched against Béla Vargha, an engineer, and his colleagues on charges of sabotage. A warrant was issued for his arrest and for a house search. Mugshots were taken after the arrest.

The investigation procedure was usually carried out according to a preliminary plan, and had to meet the legal requirements on paper. However, these were often only enforced on paper, and at certain

times, physical violence and psychological abuse against suspects was not uncommon. After the investigation was completed, the case was, usually, submitted to the prosecution.



Extract from
the detention centre
agent's report
on Ferenc Kelemen,
10.06.1953.
(ÁBTL – 3.1.9. –
V-110208/41)

179. sz. jelentés

dr. Kelemen Ferenc fogdai magatartásáról.

Budapest, 1953. június hó 10-én.

Hangulata.

"Még nem fordult elő az életemben, hogy ennyire nem ismertem volna ki magamat valamiben"- állapította meg Kelemen keddi rövid kihallgatása után. Hosszadulmasan magyarázta, hogy mért annyira érthetetlen számára helyzete.

ÁBTL – 3.1.9. – V-110208/41

Report no. 179
on the behaviour of Dr Ferenc Kelemen in the Detention Centre
Budapest, 10 June 1953
Mood: "Never before in my life have I been so uncertain of myself regarding something,"
Kelemen stated after his brief interrogation on Tuesday. He explained at length why the situation was so incomprehensible to him.

Államvédelmi Hatóság.
VI/4-c. aloszt.

37.

Szigorúan titkos!

Szolgálati jegy
Budapest, 1953. június 1.

Kérem M o h i Rezső őrizetést f. hó 3-án 14 h-ig sötétzárkába helyezni.

Kiss László év.szds.
alosztályvezető.

Fogdairoda Vezetőjének!

ÁBTL – 3.1.9. – V-110208/31

Order by the Internal
Preventive Investigation
Department to place
Rezső Mohi in solitary
confinement
(ÁBTL – 3.1.9. –
V-110208/31)

State Protection Authority.
Subdivision VI/4-c.
Top secret!
Service ticket
Budapest, 1 June 1953

Place detainee Rezső Mohi in solitary confinement until 2 p.m. on 3 February.

State Defence Captain László Kiss
Head of Subdivision
To the Head of Detention Centre Office!

Államvédelmi Hatóság Szigoruan Titkos.
VI/1-c.alo. 229
Szolgálati jegy.
Budapest, 1952. december hó 7.-én.
Kérem Mohi Rezső őrizetétől a további uatsításig az ebédadagját megvonni és cellájában állíttatni.
Kapitány Lajos
áv. szds. oszt. vez.
A Fogda íroda Vezetőjének.
ÁBTL - 3.1.9. - V-110208/28

State Protection Authority
Top secret.
Subdivision VI/1-c.
Service ticket
Budapest, 7 December 1952
I request that detainee Rezső Mohi be deprived of his lunch ration and kept in his cell until further notice.
Lajos Kapitány
State Defence Captain,
Head of Department
To the Head of Detention Centre Office.

Order of 7 December 1952 on the deprival of Rezső Mohi's lunch ration.

340
Tárgy: Mohi /Mayer / Rezső 19. kihallgatásához.
Kihallgatási terv.
Budapest, 1952. december 17.
A kihallgatását 6 órára tervezem.
Mohi a kártevés elkövetésénél alkalmazott tudatosságát boncolgatom.
Feladat:
Mohi tudatosságát bebizonyítani, a népi demokratikus rendszer elleni tevékenysége végrehajtásában.
a./ Mikor és ki nevezte ki a felszabadulás után.
b./ Kinevezés tartalma és hogyan valósította azt meg.
c./ Milyen adatokat adott a MÁK-nak.
d./ Hogyan szolgálta ki a tőkéseket az államosításig.
e./ Az államosítás után.
Dokumentáció.
Rehling Konrád által 1945 április 30-án irt meghatalmazása, melyben Mohi Rezsőt bányaiszágatónak nevezte ki.
Megatartás:
Kemény, szigoru.
Engedmény:
Kézét mozgathatja.
Eredmény:
A tudatosságát bebizonyítani nem tudom.
Változás:
Nem történt.
Kihallgatási idő:
6 óra 45 perc.
Sz/1.
König Zoltán
áv. f. ügy.
ÁBTL - 3.1.9. - V-110208/28

Állambiztonsági Biztetőintézet.
Budapest, VI/2. III. osztály.
8) 103-Gy.83/1952
VI/2. Osztály Vezetőjének.
Budapest.
Jelentés.
Budapest, 1952. január hó 5-én.
Az intézet elítéltek és őrizeteseinek hangulatában az elmúlt 24 órában különösebb változás nem állt be, még ma is beszélgetnek a kanadai találkozásokról, azonban újabb nem jött fel.
A kisfogházban elhelyezett 33-as L.G. elítélt étkoztetése továbbra is gumicsővön történik, viselkedése elég nyugodt, bár nemi részét többször elköti.
A női elítéltek több esetben fordultak az osztályvezetőkhöz kérelemmel, munkát kértek, valamint könyveket a tanuláshoz, az a kérdésük hogy az intézetvesztésége tegye lehetővé számukra az orosznyelvtan tanulását, amelyhez könyveket kérnek.
24. tkvsn. Bakos Vilmos, elítéltet megkollet fenyíteni azért mert azt a kijelentést tette hogyha ottett másik munka hejre tesszik dolgozni, akkor kanalat és leveget fog lenyelni, ezért 2. szor 6. órai kurtavásra lett megfenyítve.
25. tkvsn. Kovács István. elítéltet mert eszentalenül viselkedett az őr elváltással, és a munka alól kiakarta magát vónni 2. szor 6. órai kurtavásra lett megfenyítve.
29. tkvsn. Nagy Gy. István. elítéltet megkollet fenyíteni mert a munkát megtagadta 10. napon keresztül minden másnap 6. órai kurtavásra és minden másnap rövidkösatra, amely fenyítést a mai napon is végrehajtottuk rajta.
Az intézetben elhelyezett elítéltek és őrizeteseek teljes létszáma: 991. fő. ebből szigoru őrizetű: 43. fő. Kihallgatáson távol van 5. fő. Korházba van: 8. fő. Étkoztatói létszámunk: 978. fő.

State Security Penitentiary
"Top secret!" "H"
Budapest, Department VI/2. III
Subject: Daily mood report and the numeric statement of the prisoners in the institution

103.Gy.83/1952

To the Head of Department VI/2.
Budapest.

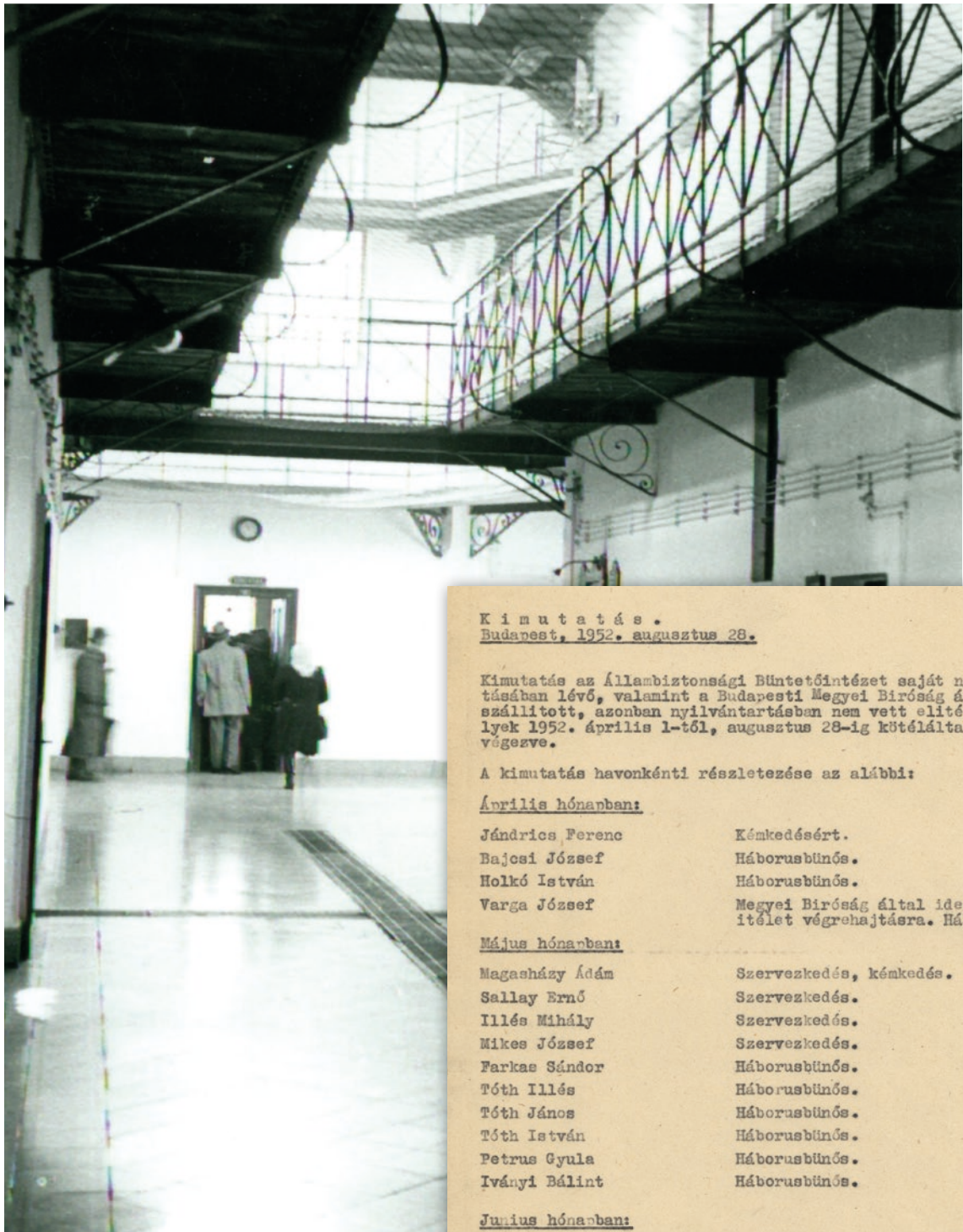
Report
Budapest, 5 January 1952

There has been no change in the mood of the inmates and detainees in the last 24 hours. They are still talking about their meetings in Canada, but no new subjects have come up. Convict L.G., no. 33, who is in the small prison, continues to be fed through a rubber tube. His behaviour is quite calm, although he repeatedly ties his genitals.

On several occasions, the female prisoners have approached the Heads of Department with requests for work and books to study. They have asked the institute's management to allow them to study Russian, for which they need books. Convict Vilmos Bakos, registry no. 24, had to be punished, because he stated that if he was put to work in another workplace, he would swallow spoons and bottles. Therefore, he has to spend 2 x 6 hours with his hands and legs cuffed together. Convict István Novák, registry no. 55, behaved insolently with a guard comrade, and tried to avoid working. He was therefore punished, and has to spend 2 x 6 hours with his hands and legs cuffed together. Convict István Gy. Nagy, registry no. 930, had to be punished for refusing to work for 10 days. Therefore, he has to spend every other day with his hands and legs cuffed together for six hours, and every day in between with short meal times. The latter punishment was imposed on him today as well. The total number of prisoners and detainees housed in the institution is 991, of which four are in close confinement (one male and three females). Five people are absent for interrogation. Eight people are in hospital. The number of meals served is 978. The total number of employed prisoners is 495, and the total number of non-employed prisoners is 483, of which 438 are men and 45 are women. Referring to changes in the scheduled work, the management of the institute's industrial company reduced the number of employees, and sent a list to the institute's management with the number and names of the prisoners they would like to dismiss. In its current format, we found this request unacceptable, realising that they wanted to provoke us. We therefore did not reduce the number of prisoners whose dismissal the company requested by name, but by number. No other reportable events occurred within the institute.

János Nagy
State Defence Captain
Deputy Head of Institution

"Szigoruan titkos" V
Tárgy: Napi hangulat jelentés valamint az intézet elítélteknek szám szerinti kimutatása.
8) 103-Gy.83/1952
VI/2. Osztály Vezetőjének.
Budapest.
Jelentés.
Budapest, 1952. január hó 5-én.
Az intézet elítéltek és őrizeteseinek hangulatában az elmúlt 24 órában különösebb változás nem állt be, még ma is beszélgetnek a kanadai találkozásokról, azonban újabb nem jött fel.
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A női elítéltek több esetben fordultak az osztályvezetőkhöz kérelemmel, munkát kértek, valamint könyveket a tanuláshoz, az a kérdésük hogy az intézetvesztésége tegye lehetővé számukra az orosznyelvtan tanulását, amelyhez könyveket kérnek.
24. tkvsn. Bakos Vilmos, elítéltet megkollet fenyíteni azért mert azt a kijelentést tette hogyha ottett másik munka hejre tesszik dolgozni, akkor kanalat és leveget fog lenyelni, ezért 2. szor 6. órai kurtavásra lett megfenyítve.
25. tkvsn. Kovács István. elítéltet mert eszentalenül viselkedett az őr elváltással, és a munka alól kiakarta magát vónni 2. szor 6. órai kurtavásra lett megfenyítve.
29. tkvsn. Nagy Gy. István. elítéltet megkollet fenyíteni mert a munkát megtagadta 10. napon keresztül minden másnap 6. órai kurtavásra és minden másnap rövidkösatra, amely fenyítést a mai napon is végrehajtottuk rajta.
Az intézetben elhelyezett elítéltek és őrizeteseek teljes létszáma: 991. fő. ebből szigoru őrizetű: 43. fő. Kihallgatáson távol van 5. fő. Korházba van: 8. fő. Étkoztatói létszámunk: 978. fő.
A nemdolgozó elítéltek száma összesen: 45. fő nő.
Állalat vesztésége, a tervmunkán történt alkotatottak számát eszkentette, az intézte meg azoknak az elítélteknek számát és tők, mellyel ebben a formában elfohadni nem provokálni akarnak, ezért mindazokat amely mi egy eszkentettük hogy nem névszerint a létszám kiadást.
tőszere mlto esemény nem történt.
König Zoltán
áv. szds.
Intézetvezető, h.
ÁBTL - 2.1. - XII.t.
-103-Gy.-83/1952



Photograph of the transit prison in Kozma Street before it was taken over by the State Protection Authority (Photographic Collection of the Hungarian National Museum)

K i m u t a t á s . Budapest, 1952. augusztus 28.	
Kimutatás az Állambiztonsági Büntetőintézet saját nyilvántartásában lévő, valamint a Budapesti Megyei Bíróság által ide szállított, azonban nyilvántartásban nem vett elítéltekről, melyek 1952. április 1-től, augusztus 28-ig kötéláttal ki lettek végezve.	
A kimutatás havonkénti részletezése az alábbi:	
<u>Április hónapban:</u>	
Jándrics Ferenc	Kémkedésért.
Bajcsi József	Háborusbűnös.
Holkó István	Háborusbűnös.
Varga József	Megyei Bíróság által ide szállított ítélet végrehajtásra. Háborusbűnös.
<u>Május hónapban:</u>	
Magasházy Ádám	Szervezkedés, kémkedés.
Sallay Ernő	Szervezkedés.
Illés Mihály	Szervezkedés.
Mikes József	Szervezkedés.
Farkas Sándor	Háborusbűnös.
Tóth Illés	Háborusbűnös.
Tóth János	Háborusbűnös.
Tóth István	Háborusbűnös.
Petrus Gyula	Háborusbűnös.
Iványi Bálint	Háborusbűnös.
<u>Június hónapban:</u>	
Sörös István	Háborusbűnös.
Vizi László	Háborusbűnös.
Licskai József	Háborusbűnös.
Molnár István	Megyei Bíróság által ide szállított ítélet végrehajtásra. Iratai nincsenek.
./.	
ÁBTL - 2.1. - XII.t. - 73-4175/1952	

List of persons who were executed by hanging in the State Security Penitentiary from 1 April 1952 (extract)

SENTENCES IMPOSED

[STATE DEFENCE PRISONS AND CAMPS]

The growth in the power of the political police is well illustrated by the fact that, over time, it took control of several prisons in both Budapest and in the provinces. These prisons were taken over by the State Protection Authority, and the fate of the inmates took an even worse turn. Furthermore,

internment was a special “weapon” in the hands of state defence. It meant that it was possible to isolate almost anyone from the outside world without a court ruling. The hardships of the camps were exacerbated to the extreme by the cruelty of the guards and forced labour.



Shoes, a piece of barbed wire and stones from the mine found in the area of the camp in Recsk photograph: Dániel Kovalovszky



Photograph of the camp in Reck through the wire fence
(Photographic Collection of the Hungarian National Museum)

[...] I acknowledge that any news or information about the internment camp and the people in the camp constitutes a "state secret". The violation of "state secrets" is punishable by Decree no. XXI. of 1951 of the Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic with imprisonment of up to 10 years, unless the offence is considered more serious.

Reck, 18 September 1953 [...]

Extract from the confidentiality statement about the internment camp, 18.09.1953.

117

Név: Szakács Sándor
szül. hely: Rakoscsaba
..... 1913. nov. 13.
Anyja neve: Benyócsky Erzsébet
Hova tartozik: Páty

Tudomásulveszem, hogy az internálótáborral és a táborban lévő személyekkel kapcsolatos minden hír, vagy adat "állami titok" képez. Az "állami titok" megsértését a Magyar Népköztársaság Elnöki Tanácsának 1951. XXI. sz. a rendelethez 10 évig terjedhető börtönbüntetéssel sújtja - amennyiben a cselekmény súlyosabban nem minősül.

Kelt: Reck. 1953. szept. 18

V-249

Szakács Sándor

aláírás.

ABTL - 3.1.9. - V-249

Tabódy István fegyház 79
127
Ezerrellet meghallott fegyházban, mert
1948. VII. 30-án a fegyház ellenőrzésekor az általa
kiszempítmi mindkét levéllet keltevel,
közvetlenül. 1948. VII. 12-én előjött felve-
vésére az elrejtett fegyverlapot adott
le és azt, hogy a társaságban tiltott
minden magánál rejtett getett személyi
okmányait tisztán és pontos helyre
tudja elrejtetni. 1948. VII. 20-án
fogyatkozott a előkészített nőket kic-
sített mag. kijelentette kihallgatása
alkalmával, hogy adandó alkalmával
is mint megkísérli a nőket
sifon fegyház indokolt, mert
sami járulást nem mutat és mint
vált kétsége tiszt fellevelet mintekben
tudatában van ezeknek ~~szerep~~
mely követke megjelölnek.
Kihallgatott fegyház: 6x6 óra tartama
15 nap kemény fegyház, magasló ro inter-
kedő képpen járulást állandó
kés és láthatóan alkalmával és

ÁBTL - 3.1.9. - V-108997

Handwritten note from the Central Internment Camp of the Budapest Headquarters of the Hungarian State Police about the punishment of István Tabódy, 1948.

"The above-mentioned person had to be punished, because on 30 July 1948, during an inspection of the Detention Centre, a letter was found that he had intended to smuggle out. On 12 August 1948, to mislead his superiors, he handed over a hidden saw blade in order to be able to hide his identity

documents in a safer place. He had been hiding these documents illicitly, against camp regulations. On 20 August 1948, he attempted a cunningly organised escape. During his interrogation he stated that he would try to escape again if the opportunity presented itself.

80
128
a fogolyalkalmazotti törvényi formát -
Törvény.

Magyar Államrendőrség Budapesti Központi Internmenttábor
főkapitánysága
Központi Internmenttábor
fogház- és toloncgyosztálytól.

A magyar rendőrség
száma

Tolonclevél

Személyleírása:

Születési helye:
Termete:
Arca:
Haja:
Szeme:
Orra:
Bajusza:
Különös ismertetőjelei:
Borotválkozás:
Borotválkozás oka:
19 évi hó n
egész területéről
elzárás kitöltése után
kifüggetlenül a magyar rendőrség
kifüggetlenül a magyar rendőrség
kifüggetlenül a magyar rendőrség

illetékesi helyére utasított, illetőleg ide szállított
Kérem ezen tolonclevelet fennvezet megérkezének elismerésével ellátottan azonnal visszaküldeni.
19 évi
napján
Kérem ezen tolonclevelet fennvezet megérkezének elismerésével ellátottan azonnal visszaküldeni.
Kérem ezen tolonclevelet fennvezet megérkezének elismerésével ellátottan azonnal visszaküldeni.

Mellékelve
rendőrség vezetője:
Magyar Rendőr

ÁBTL - 3.1.9. - V-108997

The back of a handwritten note from the Central Internment Camp of the Budapest Headquarters of the Hungarian State Police about the punishment of István Tabódy, 1948

His severe punishment is justified, because he shows no signs of improvement and, as a former military officer, he is acutely aware of the dire consequences of his actions."

STOP! STATE BORDER! [“THE IRON CURTAIN”]

Following World War II Hungary became part of the Soviet Union’s sphere of interest by agreement between the victorious powers. In the increasingly tense atmosphere of the Cold War a “border barrier” was built on the western and southern borders. The “iron curtain” came down, and the country was hermetically sealed, or, as the authorities of the time described it, sealed without a gap. The ideological division of the world thus took on a physical form. As a result of the brutality of the Rákosi dictatorship, the policy of total isolation and restrictions on travel, many people were forced to resort to illegal means to leave the country, or, in the parlance of the time, to defect. After the communist takeover, both border protection and passport cases were transferred to state defence. The ill-conceived economic policy and senseless industrialisation resulted in a scarce economy, which, in turn, favoured the smuggling of goods and people across borders. Its prevention was also the responsibility of the political police.

Ferenc Nagy and Miklós Szabó at the Hungarian-Austrian border
(ÁBTL – 3.2.1. – Bt-255/4)

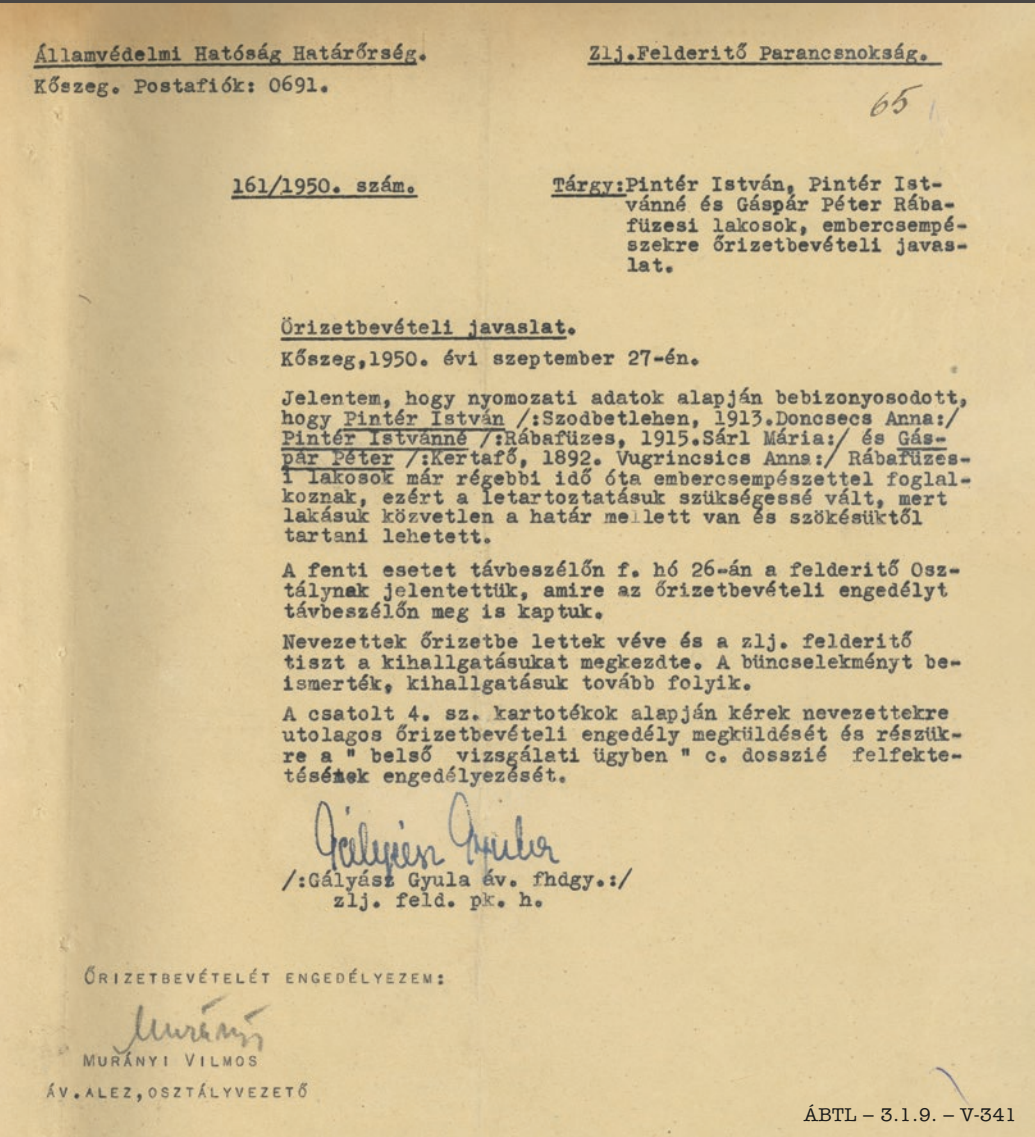
In the summer of 1956, Prime Minister Ferenc Nagy, who was forced to resign and emigrate in 1947 on trumped-up charges, visited the Austrian-Hungarian border from the west with Miklós Szabó, a former small landowner and fellow party member, who, after the fall of communism, turned out to be an agent of the Hungarian political police.



Under the communist dictatorship it was made difficult for people to obtain permission to travel abroad, many therefore tried to leave the country illegally. In the socialist system, the authorities did everything in their power to prevent illegal border crossings, and severe penalties were imposed on those caught trying to cross the border. In the 1950s, most of the attempts at illegal border crossings involved sneaking across the unguarded section of the border. The majority of people trying

to leave the country illegally used the Austrian and Yugoslavian borders, consequently, border control was the strictest here. Attempts to escape by vehicle were also common, there were even cases of plane hijackings. Document forgery and use of invalid passports were also common. From the very beginning, smugglers played a role in illegal border crossing, usually offering “help” for money.

HUMAN TRAFFICKERS



Proposal for custody.
Köszeg, 27 September 1950.

Based on investigative data, it has been proven that István Pintér /:Szodbetlehen, 1913, mother's name: Anna Donsecs:/, Mrs István Pintér /:Rábafüzes, 1915, mother's name: Mária Sári:/ and Péter Gáspár /:Kertafő, 1892, mother's name: Anna Vugrincsi:/, residents of Rábafüzes, have been involved in human trafficking for a long time. Their arrest became necessary, because their homes are located next to the border and their escape could be anticipated.

The case was reported to the Intelligence Department by telephone on 26 February, and the authorisation to place the individuals in question under arrest was obtained by telephone.

The above-mentioned persons have been taken into custody, and the Battalion Intelligence Officer has begun interrogating them. They have confessed to the crime, and are still being questioned.

On the basis of the attached file no. 4, I request that a post-custody authorisation regarding the above-mentioned persons and an authorisation to open a dossier titled “internal investigation” be sent.

A WORK OF “FICTION”

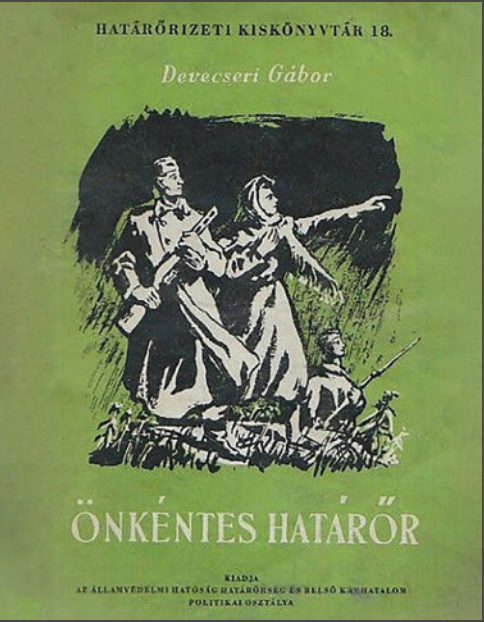
Gábor Devecseri (1917–1971), Hungarian poet, writer, literary translator and classical scholar, translated Homer’s works into modern Hungarian. A lesser-known fact is that he taught literature as a major at the Hungarian People’s Army Officers’ Academy between 1948 and 1954. In 1951, he published a narrative poem, Volunteer Border Guard (Önkéntes határőr), set in the region of the southern border.

“On the other side, the reeds are rattling
with a thin, warning sound:
‘Look out, the enemy
is using the mist’
On the far shore, a spy is lurking
Behind the wire and the fog.”

PASSPORTS
TRAVELLING IS NOT A RIGHT BUT A PRIVILEGE

In the socialist system, travelling abroad was strictly regulated, and for many, it was an unattainable dream. Permits to travel abroad had to be applied for, and could be refused by the competent authorities without justification or explanation. The country’s leadership were afraid that travelling abroad would give people too good an impression of the Western world.

When travelling abroad, the amount of western currency was also limited: the 50, and later 70 dollars, that the law allowed to be withdrawn would not have been enough for anything. Trying to take more than the permitted amount out of the country was considered a crime. The “world passport”, valid to all countries in the world, was introduced in 1988, ending the previous practice of differentiating between socialist (“friendly”) and western (“imperialist”) countries.



On the 1963 defections

41-9/13/64.II.13.

III/I. (67/9-587/64. 11 February)

A total of 232 people defected in 1963, 65 more than in the previous year. Out of the 232 persons, 36 left the country illegally /they are not included in the statistics below/, and 196 were tourists, using individual or official passports. In the context of increased passenger traffic, the number of defections has changed as follows: Opposition to the social system as an actual reason was only mentioned by two people.

	number of travellers to capitalist countries	number of defectors	% ratio
1960	42,460	144	0.34
1961	46,545	137	0.29
1962	62,766	167	0.26
1963	126,115	196	0.15

Although, in absolute terms, the number of defections has increased since 1960, the percentage ratio has been decreasing.

It should be noted that many of the defectors in 1963 were highly qualified professionals: 15 engineers, 13 doctors and 17 other highly qualified people.

/In the past four years, 58 doctors, 50 engineers, 27 ministry employees, 22 scientific researchers, 14 schoolteachers and numerous industrial workers have defected.

/ Among those who defected in 1963 were 10 members of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party and 40 members of the Hungarian Young Communist League.

The following reasons were given for nearly 100 of the defections:

- hopes of greater success	31 people
- to be with relatives, parents, children, fiancé(e)	29 people
- bad family life	12 people
- fear of being held accountable	5 people
- yearning for adventures	8 people

Opposition to the social system as an actual reason was only mentioned by two people.

- 1 -

41-9/13/64.II.13

Az 1963-ban történt disszidá-
lasokról

III/I. (67/9-587/64. febr. 11.)

1963-ban összesen 232 fő disszidált, 65 fővel több, mint az előző évben. A 232 személy közül 36-an illegális úton hagyták el az országot /ezek az alábbi statisztikában nem szerepelnek/, 196-an pedig turista, egyéni, vagy hivatalos utlevél segítségével. A megnövekedett utasforgalom adataival összefüggésben a disszidálások száma a következő képpen alakult:

	kapitalista ország- okba utazók száma	disszidáltak száma	% arány
1960	42 460	144	0,34
1961	46 545	137	0,29
1962	62 766	167	0,26
1963	126 115	196	0,15

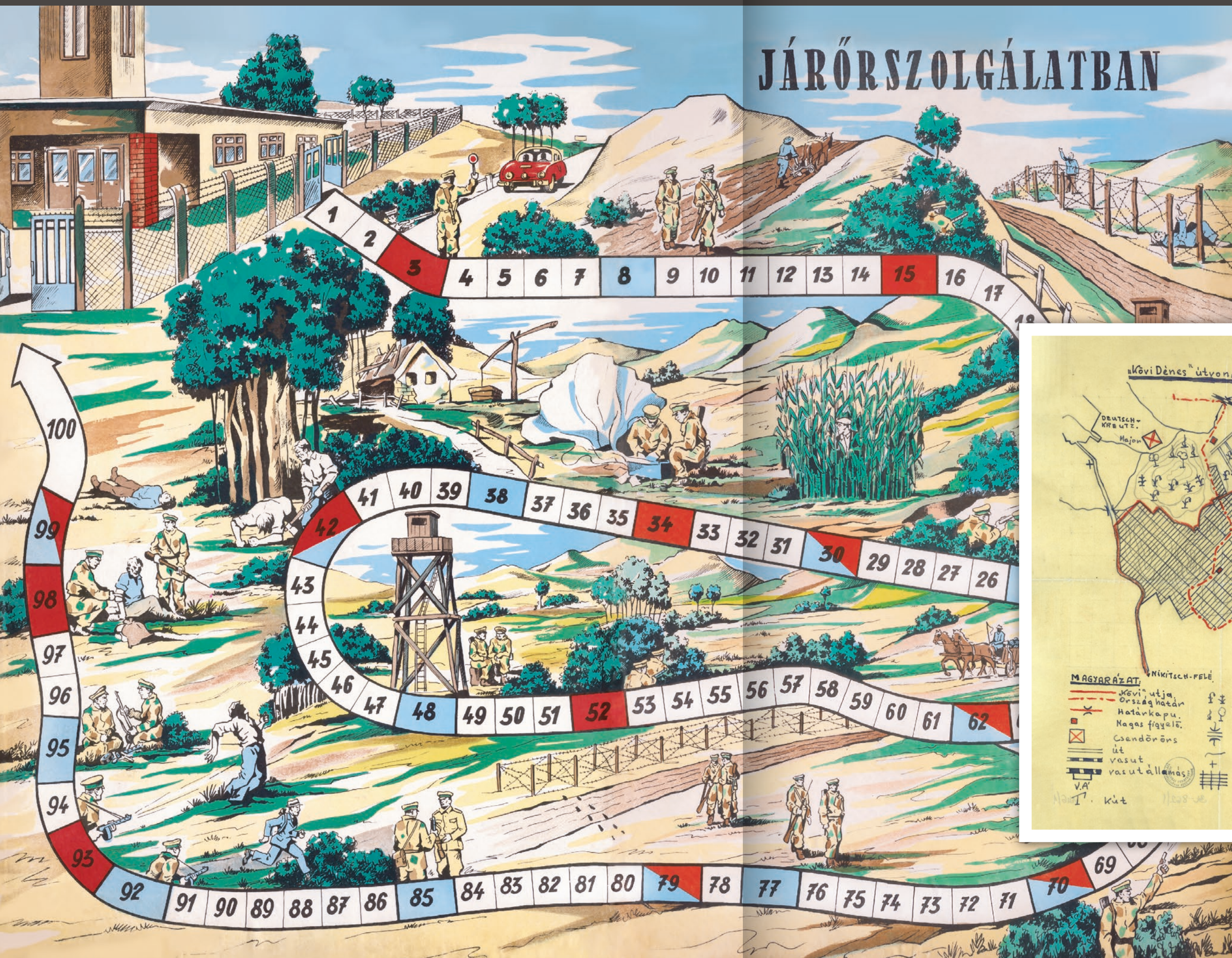
1960 óta a disszidálások száma abszolút számokban ugyan emelkedett, százalékos arányban csökkenő tendenciát mutat.

Figyelemre méltó, hogy 1963-ban a disszidáltak között számos magas képzettségű szakember van: 15 mérnök, 13 orvos és 17 egyéb magasabb képesítésű személy. /Az elmúlt négy évben 58 orvos, 50 mérnök, 27 minisztériumi dolgozó, 22 tudományos kutató, 14 iskolai tanár és sok ipari szakmunkás disszidált./ Az 1963-ban disszidáltak között 10 MSZMP-tag és 40 KISZ-tag van.

A disszidálások okait vizsgálva közel 100 főnél az alábbi indokok játszottak közre:

- nagyobb érvényesülés reménye	31 fő
- rokonokhoz, szülőkhöz, gyermekekhez, jegyesekhez kerülés	29 "
- rossz családi élet	12 "
- felelősségrevonástól való félelem	5 "
- kalandvágy	8 "

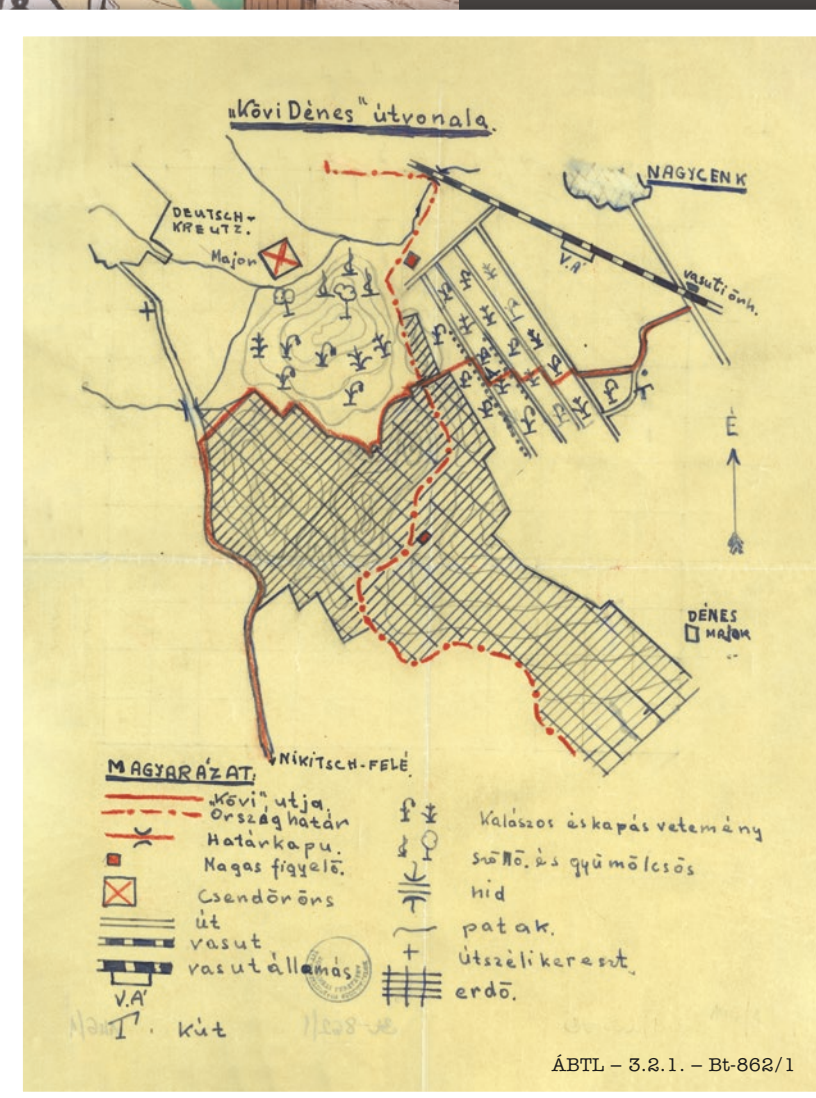
Társadalmi rendszerünkkel való szembenállás, mint tényleges ok csak 2 főnél merült fel.



JÁRŐRSZOLGÁLATBAN

A "board game" called On Patrol. Copy, the original belongs to Dr János Sallai

The agent, under the code name "Denes Kövi", a former member of the Peasants' Party, was sent to Austria with the task of infiltrating the circle of Hungarian political emigrants in Vienna. "Kövi" received the map below from state security. The map illustrates a safe route to cross the border.



ÁBTL - 3.2.1. - Bt-862/1

An agent's route

state defence - state security

STATE DEFENCE – STATE SECURITY

[THE ORGANISATION]



Workers of the Hungarian Royal State Iron, Steel and Machine Factories donate a team flag to the State Protection Authority of the Ministry of Interior on 26 April 1949
(Photographic Collection of the Hungarian National Museum)

UNDER PARTY CONTROL

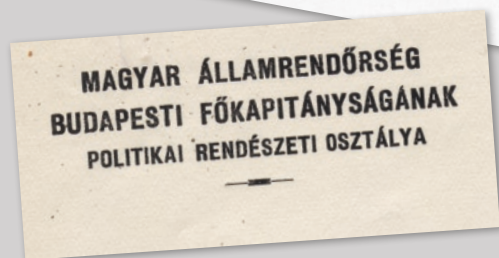
As early as in 1945, at the moment of its inception, the political police came under communist influence. The force was initially controlled by a narrow circle of the party leadership, ultimately by Mátyás Rákosi. After 1953, instead of the previously informal manner, the institution was

supervised by the party in a more regulated, institutionalised way. However, one thing did not change: the state party exercised tight control over the operation of state security until the change in the political system and this remained a key pillar maintaining the dictatorship.



The State Protection Authority's guard of honour marches in a closed formation on Dózsa György Street in Budapest on 4 April 1950. It was the first time the public saw the border guards, known as the "green guards" by their uniforms' insignia, and the members of the armed forces, known as the "blue guards", marching together.

Political police round seals and letterheads used between 1945 and 1946.



ON THE WAY TO THE STATE PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Initially, between 1945 and 1950, the political police functioned as part of the state police in a territorially divided manner (capital-provinces), then later became a national police force.

From 1948, the force operated as an authority under the Ministry of Interior. In the meantime, the number of its members steadily increased and its responsibilities expanded.

Magyar államrendőrség budapesti főkapitányságának politikai rendészeti osztálya

Minősítési lap

Név P é t e r G á b o r
Rangja osztályvezető fk.helyettes
Születési hely és év Ujfehertó 1906.
Anyja neve Metzner Róza
Családi állapota nős
Gyermekeinek száma
Szolgálatbalépésének napja 1945.II.1.
Kinevezésének napja és száma
Iskolai végzettsége 4 elemi
Nyelvismerete
Mikor, milyen rendőrségi tanfolyamot végzett?
Melyik politikai párt tagja és mióta? M.K.P.

Személyleírása :

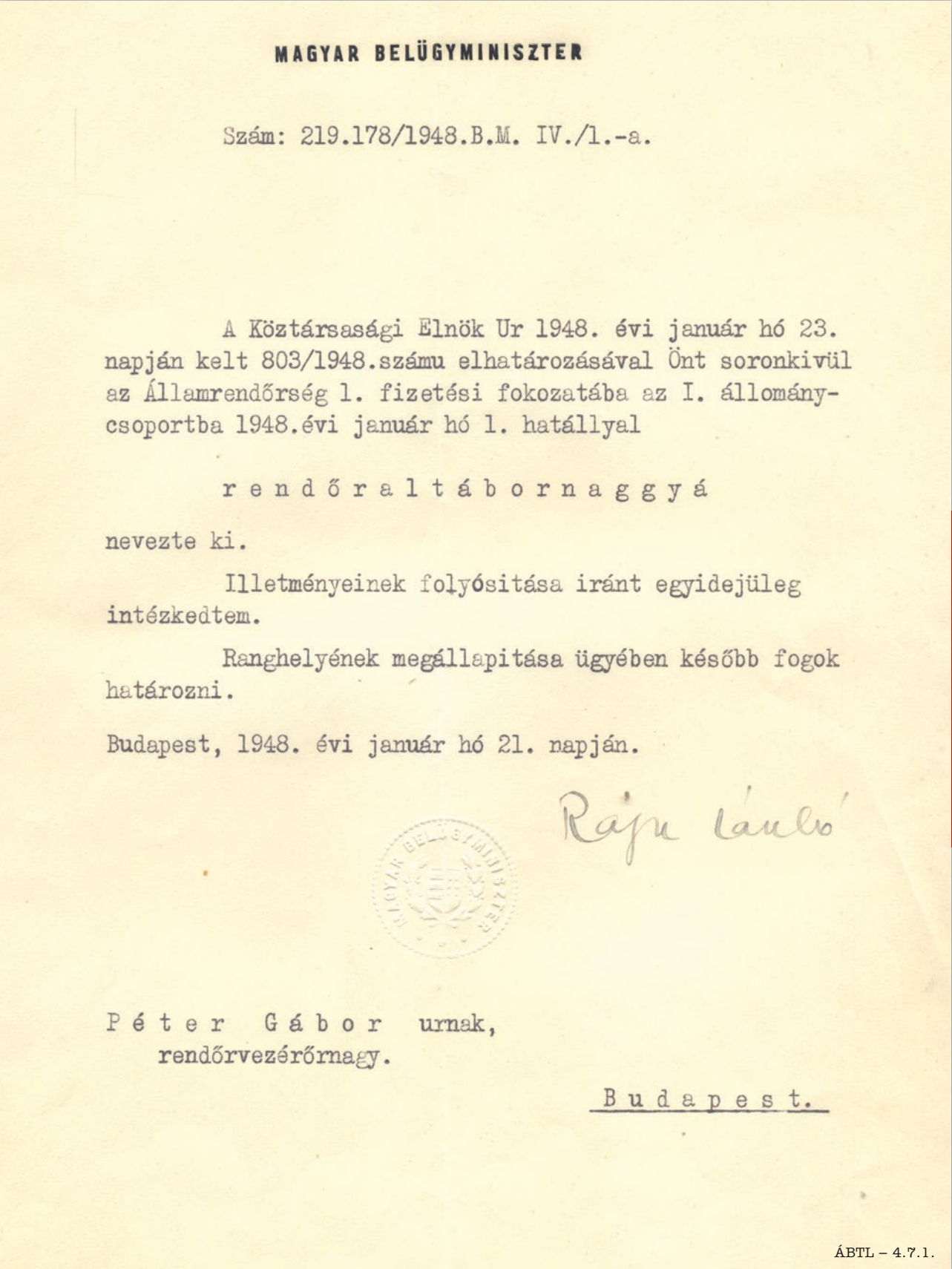
Testmagasság cm.
Hajszín
Szemszín
Sajátos ismertetőjel



ÁBTL - 2.1. - VI/1-f

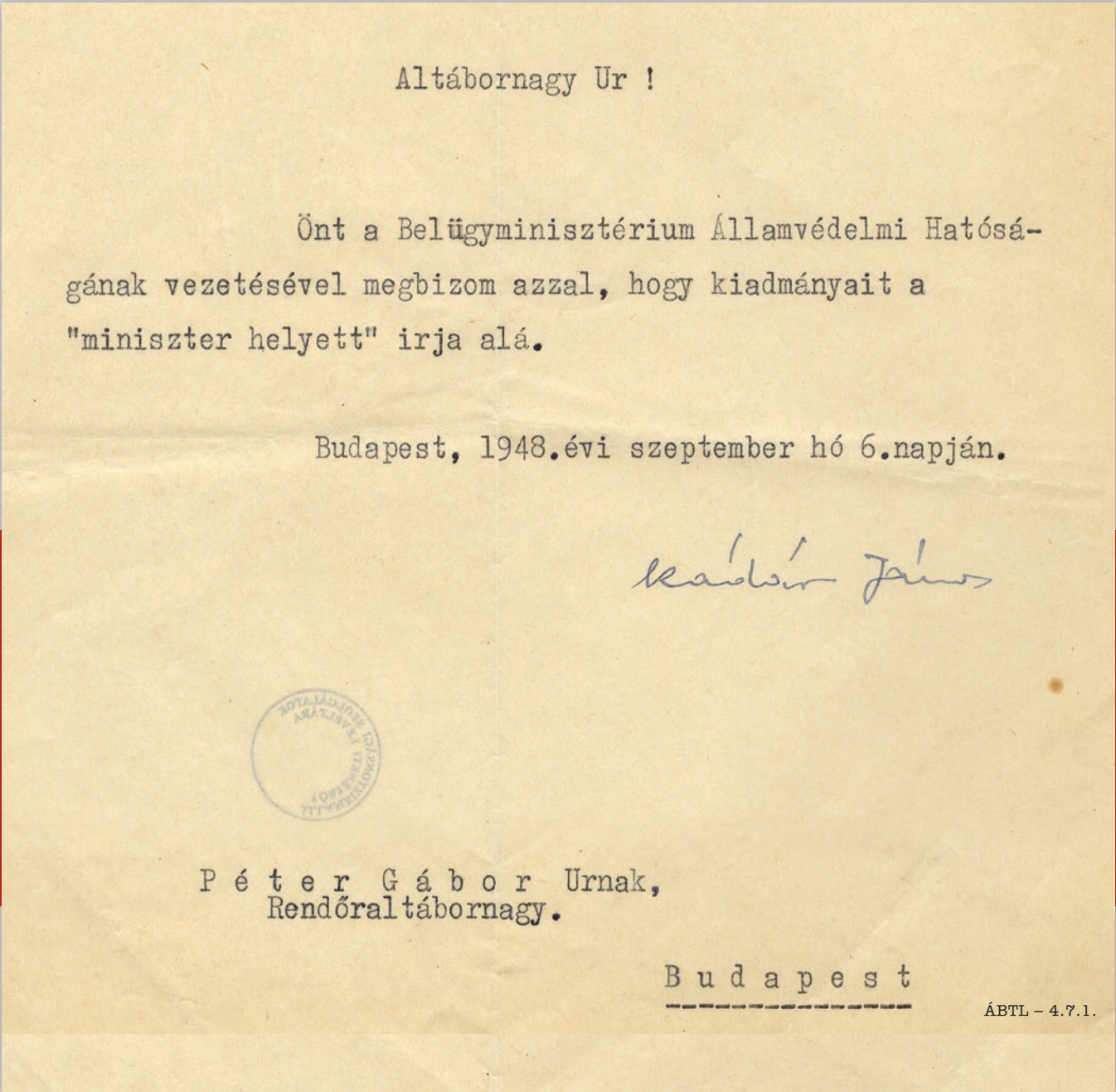
Gábor Péter's (head of the political police between 1945 and 1953) classification sheet from 1945 (extract)

On 23 January 1948, Gábor Péter was appointed a police lieutenant general by the President.



Document signed by László Rajk (Minister of Interior between 1946 and 1948) on the appointment and salary of Gábor Péter.

In 1948, Gábor Péter was appointed head of the State Protection Authority of the Ministry of Interior. Many of the leaders of the Ministry of Interior, which oversaw the political police, were the victims of Soviet-style show trials. László Rajk was sentenced to death, and János Kádár to life imprisonment.



Document signed by János Kádár (Minister of Interior between 1948 and 1950) on the commission of Gábor Péter.

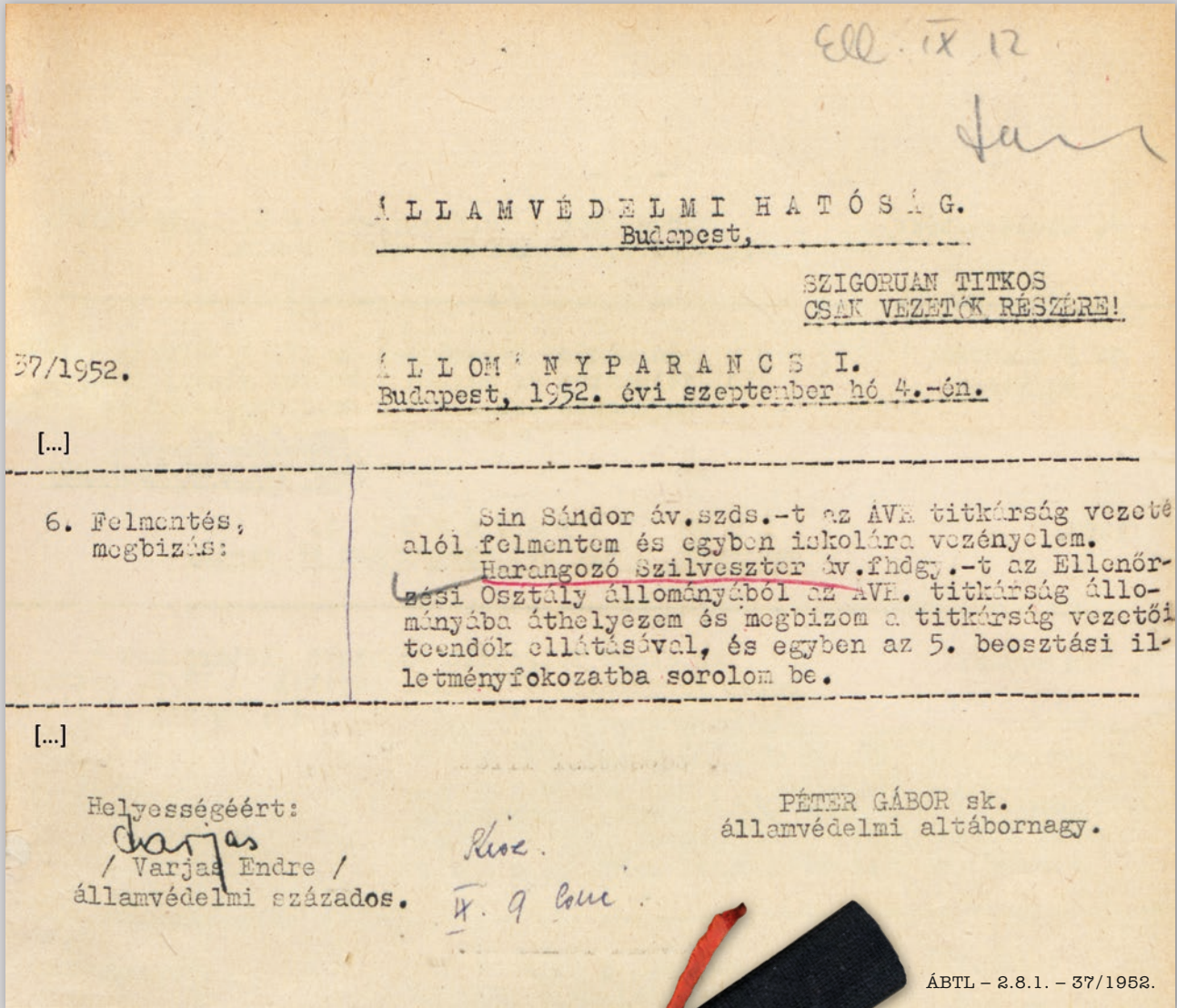
TOTAL PREVENTION

The political police of the Rákosi era “peaked” in the period between 1950 and 1953, when the State Protection Authority became independent of the Ministry of Interior. The vastly expanded police force and informer network enabled even more widespread use of violence.

In 1953, Gábor Péter was also arrested in connection with a show trial. Stalin died within a few months of this so the original charges against Péter were dropped. He was eventually convicted of offences committed as head of the State Protection Authority. He was released in 1959, and worked as a librarian until his retirement in 1965.



Gábor Péter's identification and name stamp
photo: Enikő Sváby



Szilveszter Harangozó, head of state security at the time of the change in the political system, was appointed head of Gábor Péter's secretariat in 1952.



HIDDEN STATE DEFENCE

From the summer of 1953, state defence was once again operating under the Ministry of Interior, hidden, but in reality “occupying” it. This also applied during the period of the Revolution of ’56.

The decorated building of the Ministry of Interior on Roosevelt (now István Széchenyi) Square in 1952. From the following year until the change in the political system, the building also housed the state defence services. (Fortepan, Hungarian Police Photo Archives)



10-50/1506/54

19. H.

SZIGORÚAN TITKOS!

1. sz. példány

A BELÜGYMINISZTERIUM SZEMÉLYZETI FŐOSZTÁLY VEZETŐJÉNEK
3039. számú

PARANCSA

A SZEMÉLYI ÁLLOMÁNYRA VONATKOZÓLAG

Budapest, 1954. év hó 26 -n.

Áthelyezem: HARANGOZÓ SZILVESZTER áv főhadnagyot /1929. Szaszko Rozália/ 1954 november 1-i hatállyal a BM. IV/4. alosztályra főoperatív munkásnak, egyben felmentem a BM. Titkárság tájékoztató alosztály vezető helyettesi beosztásából.
Beo ill.fok: 10/1.

Tarais

ÁCS FERENC/
államvédelmi ezredes.
Főosztályvezető.

A MINŐSÍTÉS MEGSZÚNT
a 2003. évi III. tv. 12. § (6)
bekezdésére figyelemmel.

ÁBTL - 2.8.1. - 3039/1954.

Order issued by the Head of Department of the Ministry of Interior

In 1954, Szilveszter Harangozó was relieved of his post as Head of the Information Subdivision at the Secretariat of the Ministry of Interior. He was assigned to the Ministry of Interior's IV/4 (Counter-Internal Reaction) Subdivision as chief operative officer.

The order was signed by Ferenc Ács, Head of the Personnel Department, who was later responsible for the protection and management of state security documents.

THE APPARATUS OF REPRISAL

During the revolution, in the days following Imre Nagy's announcement, the state defence services disbanded, and the staff left their posts. Some joined the Soviet troops preparing an attack on the revolutionaries, others went into hiding, while many others were captured by the revolutionaries. Following the revolution, despite their initial mutual distrust, the Kádár leadership and the former members of the State Protection Authority soon

found common ground. The political police was basically formed from the latter, and, to a lesser extent, from former party workers who had been transferred there. State security services initially operated under the National Headquarters of the Hungarian Police, and, from April 1957, under Department II of the Ministry of Interior. Arresting revolutionaries and investigating them formed the backbone of their activities.

→ Document headings between 1956 and 1962

→ → Identification photograph of Szilveszter Harangozó

↓ Record of Szilveszter Harangozó's oath-taking, 1957

Országos Rendőrfőkapitányság
II. Főosztálya.

Belügyminisztérium.
II. Főosztály.



BELÜGYMINISZTERIUM

Eskütételi jegyzőkönyv

Harangozó Szilveszter rny. szds.
/19291 Szaszko Rozália:/

En a dolgozó magyar nép fia esküszöm, hogy a Magyar Népköztársaságnak hűséges őre leszek. A Népköztársaság Alkotmányához, törvényeihez és a Forradalmi Munkás-Paraszti Kormány rendelkezéseihez híven, becsülettel teljesítem kötelességemet. Előljáróim és feljebbvalóim parancsainak engedelmeskedem.

Esküszöm, hogy hazámnak, a szocializmust építő Magyar Népköztársaságnak, dolgozó népünk hatalmának és rendjének hűséges és tántoríthatatlan őrzője és védelmezője leszek minden ellenséggel szemben, ha kell életem és vérem feláldozásával is.

Esküszöm, hogy előjáróinkat, zászlóinkat és elvtársaimat megvédem, fegyvereinket és egyéb harci eszközeinket el nem hagyom. A szolgálati ismereteket elsajátítom. Példaadóan viselkedem és a fegyelmet minden törvényes eszközzel fenntartom. Alárendeltjeimről legjobb tudásom szerint gondoskodom, őket öntudatos hazafiakká és a proletár internacionalizmus harcosává nevelem.

Az állami és más népi vagyont megőrzőm és megőriztetem. Az államtitkot, a hivatali és szolgálati titkot híven megőrzőm.

Szolgálatban és szolgálaton kívül egyaránt népünk igaz fiához méltó módon viselkedem, becsülettel élek és halok.

Ha pedig a törvényeket megsértem, eskümet megszegem, sújtson a Népköztársaság törvénye és dolgozó népünk megvetése.

Budapest, 1957. július hó 1. nap.

Harangozó Szilveszter eskütevő

Ács Ferenc parancsnok

ÁBTL - 2.8.1. - 13834

[...] “as a son of the working Hungarian people, I swear that I shall be a loyal guardian of the Hungarian People's Republic.

I shall faithfully and honestly perform my duty in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the People's Republic and the regulations of the Revolutionary Workers-Peasants Government. I shall obey the orders of my superiors.

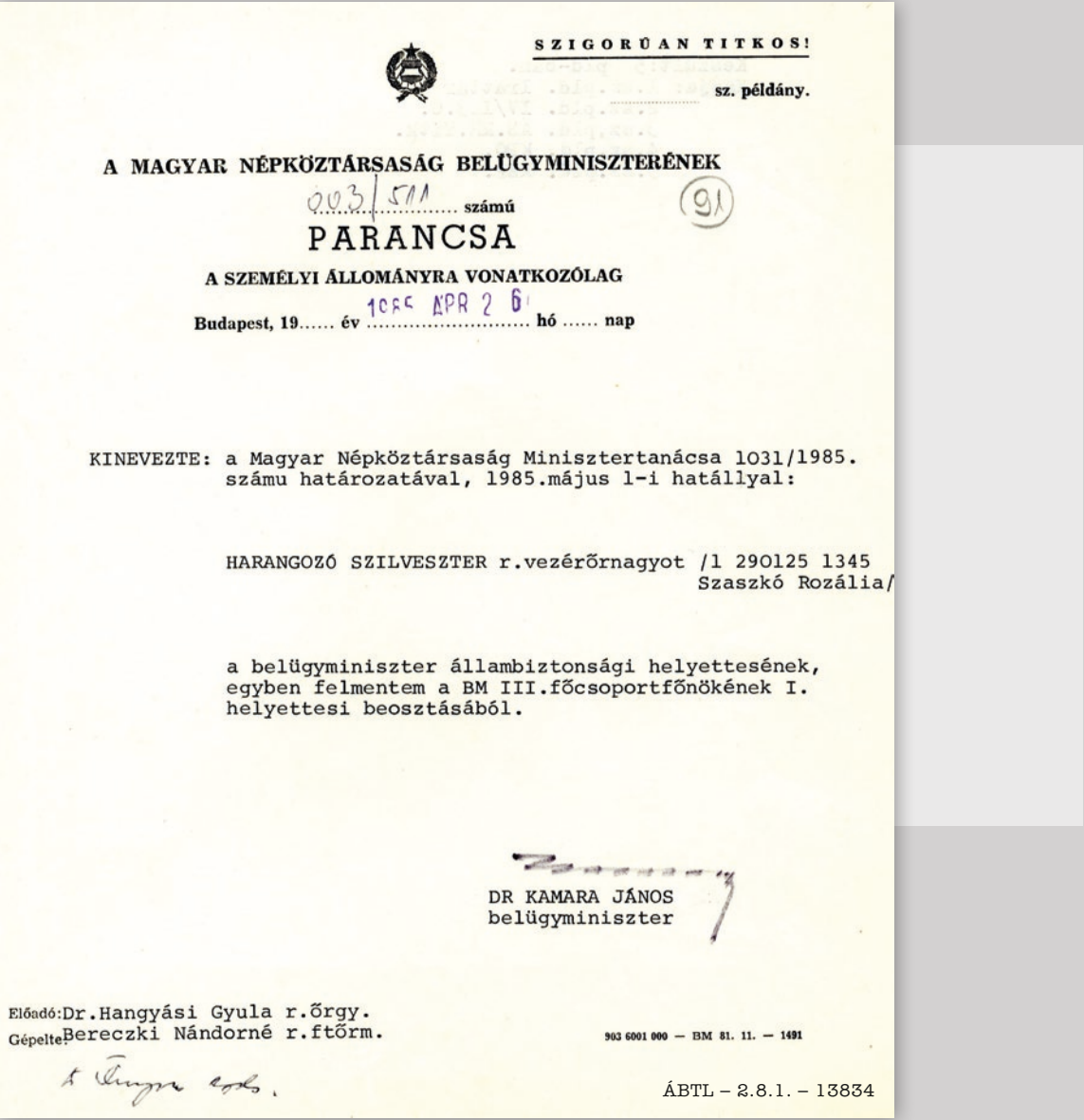
I swear that I shall be a loyal and unswerving guardian and defender of my country, the socialism-building Hungarian People's Republic and the power and order of our working people against all enemies, and, if necessary, I shall sacrifice my life and blood for it.

I swear to defend our leaders, our flags and our comrades, and not to abandon our weapons and other instruments of war. I shall learn the skills of the service. I shall lead by example, and maintain discipline by all lawful means. I shall take care of my subordinates to the best of my ability, and educate them to be self-respecting patriots and fighters for proletarian internationalism.

I shall preserve public and other nations' property. I shall be a staunch guardian of the state, official and service secrets.

On and off duty, I shall conduct myself in a manner worthy of a true son of our people, and I shall live and die with honour.

And if I violate the laws, if I break my oath, may I be punished by the law of the People's Republic and suffer the contempt of the working people” [...]

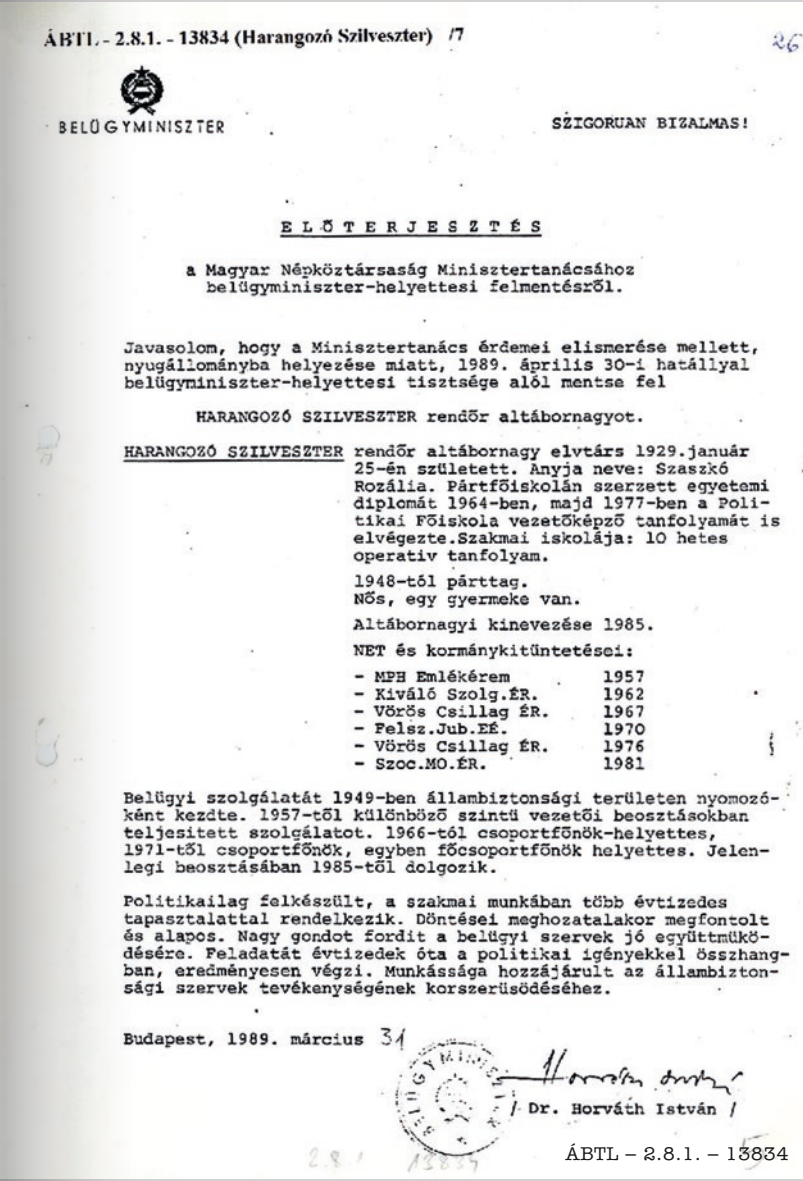


Appointment of Major General Szilveszter Harangozó as head of state security in 1985.

SECRET SERVICE

The summer of 1962 saw a complete transformation of the Ministry of Interior and the entire organisation of state security. This came in the wake of the new wave of de-Stalinisation that had begun the previous year, following the Soviet example, and which had led to the removal of several former members of the State Protection Authority and “Stalinists” from the leadership of the political police. The overhaul was basically aimed at creating an organisation that would break the state defence’s practice of total prevention, of looking for enemies everywhere and in everyone, and instead focus on the real enemy, and carry out “professional” secret service work. Accordingly, the emphasis after 1962 shifted to intelligence and counterintelligence. Until the change

in the political system, state security operated within the organisational framework established in 1962, as Department III of the Ministry of Interior. It was headed by the head of department, who was also the deputy for state security of the minister of interior. Within the organisation, there were five sub-departments, each with a Roman numeral: intelligence (III/I), counterintelligence (III/II), counter-internal reaction (III/III), military prevention (III/IV) and operational technical service (III/V).). In addition, there were separate divisions, with Arabic numerals, the structure of which changed several times; however, the most important, the Investigation Division, which conducted public investigations into political matters, was always numbered III/1.



Proposal for the exemption of Szilveszter Harangozó, 1989

The last leader of the organisation, Ferenc Pallagi, took office on 1 May 1989. However, he remained in his position for less than a year since on 21 January 1990 he was dismissed at his own request in connection with the surveillance and wiretapping scandal known as “Duna-gate”. Subsequently, Parliament adopted the Act on the Provisional Regulation of the Authorisation of the Special Means and Methods of Secret Services, on the basis of which the Government regulated by decree the organisation and tasks of the present “national security” services.

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
TOP SECRET

PROPOSAL

to the Cabinet of the Hungarian People's Republic on the dismissal of the Deputy Minister of Interior.

I propose that the Cabinet, while recognising his meritorious service, relieve

Police Lieutenant General SZILVESZTER HARANGOZÓ of his position as Deputy Minister of Interior with effect from 30 April 1989, on the grounds of his retirement.

Comrade Police Lieutenant General SZILVESZTER HARANGOZÓ was born on 25 January 1929. Mother's name: Rozália Szaszkó. He graduated from the Higher Party School in 1964, and in 1977 he completed a leadership training course at the Political College. Vocational education: 10-week operational course.

Party member since 1948. Married with one child.

Appointed Lieutenant General in 1985.

Honours and medals from the Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic:

Worker-Peasant Power Medal	1957
Outstanding Service Medal	1962
Red Star Order of Merit	1967
Liberation Jubilee Commemorative Medal	1970
Red Star Order of Merit	1976
Order of Merit for Socialist Hungary	1981

He began his service at the Ministry of Interior in 1949 as an investigator in the field of state security. From 1957 he served in various management positions at different levels. From 1966, he was Deputy Head of Sub-department and from 1971, Head of Sub-department and Deputy Head of Department. He has been in his current position since 1985.

He is politically well versed, and has decades of professional experience. He is deliberate and thorough in his decisions. He pays particular attention to ensuring that there is good cooperation between the interior services. He has been doing his job effectively and in accordance with political needs for decades. His work has contributed to the modernisation of the state security services.

Budapest, 31 March 1989

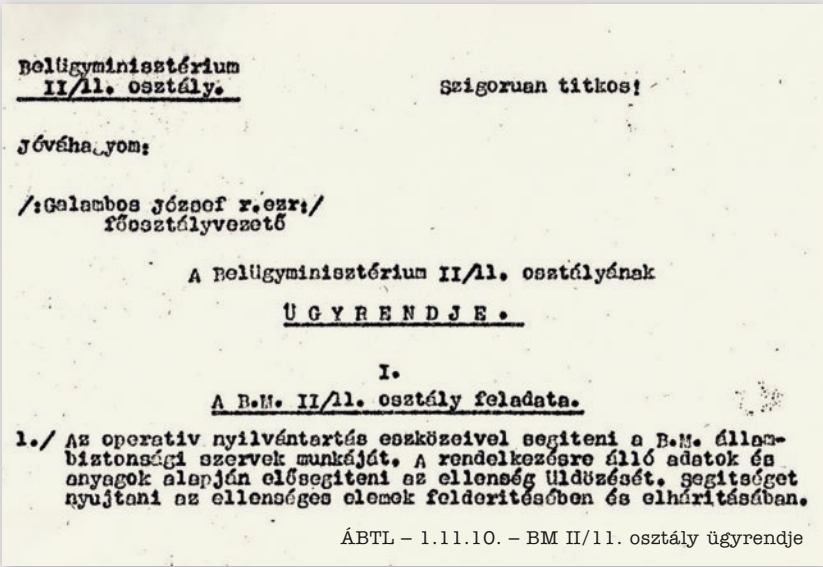
Dr István Horváth
ÁBTL - 2.8.1. - 13834

From dossiers to
magnetic tapes

FROM DOSSIERS
TO MAGNETIC TAPES

Most of the dossiers in the Archives were compiled by the secret and public investigation units, and then, after the case was closed, were transferred to the central operational records unit. Archiving and the storage of unused documents took place here. Although the place and role of the records department/subdivision within the Ministry of

Interior changed several times during its operation – similarly to the scope of the registrants and the forms of registration –, its task always remained the same: to provide information on people under surveillance on political grounds and the network on the basis of its registers and the documents held in the archives.



“To assist the work of the Ministry of Interior’s state security services with the tools of operational records. To facilitate the pursuit of the enemy on the basis of available data and material. To assist in the detection and prevention of enemy units.”

Extract from the 1959 Rules of Procedure of the Ministry of Interior’s II/11 (Operational Records) Department. The task of Department II/11



From the board, we learn that “The material generated in the course of operational work is centralised and organised by the Central Operational Records Department.”

A contemporary photograph of one of the boards in the exhibition “Operational Records”, held for state security officers for educational purposes. (ÁBTTL 1.11.10. Album)

The records department was set up to register the “enemy” and administer their actions for the political police according to criteria defined at the time. For state security, the target groups were defined by the political leadership; the registration categories (kulak, hooligan, aristocrat, saboteur etc.) were defined in internal regulations. The constantly changing nature of the enemy and the aspects determining administrative work meant that the registration system was never uniform or static. Files and dossiers were regularly removed and discarded. However, they were not discarded – or, in the jargon of the Ministry of Interior, “deleted” or “polished” – solely due to the documents in the files becoming uninteresting. With this method,

evidence of decisions that became unacceptable to the political leadership could also be destroyed. From the board we learn that “The detection and registration of the enemy helps operational processing work.” The case of Gy. F. is described as an example: “Gy. F. is a former Regimental Sergeant Major of the Gendarmerie, a resident of Csurgó, who returned from the West in 1946. During the Counter-Revolution, he served as Commander of the local “national guard”. He organised the “national guard” from the Gendarmerie and déclassé units. He was sentenced to two years in prison for counter-revolutionary activities. As an active enemy, he has also been placed on a special register of dangerous enemy individuals.”

→ A contemporary photograph of one of the boards in the exhibition “Operational Records”, held for state security officers for educational purposes. (ÁBTL 1.11.10. Album)



↓ Extract from a speech given at a meeting of the leaders of the Review Committee in 1958 (One of the audio recordings available in the showcase, ÁBTL – 4.9. – H – 3)

“[...] There were certainly problems with the application of Marxism-Leninism. Not on all questions, and not everywhere, but on fundamental questions, our correct theory was distorted in practice [...] and the distortion in party policy has certainly had a major impact on the field of state defence work. [...] The Party leadership, especially Comrade Kádár, repeatedly put forward the idea that if the Party is right in its work of state defence, if the Party’s policy is right, then the work of state defence is also heading in the right direction. If there are problems in the Party’s policy, there will also be problems in the work of state defence.”

The dossiers were kept in various “archives” by the operational records from 1959 until 1990. Every dossier was classified “Top Secret”, and access to them was restricted even for state security officers.

- Archives of “Closed materials” (The archives for certain show trials and their retrial proceedings; access to the dossiers was subject to the strictest conditions.)
- Archives of “Classified materials” (Archives of dossiers classified by operational and investigation departments.)
- Archives of Network dossiers (Archives of Recruitment and Work dossiers.)
- Archives of Operative dossiers (Dossiers on persons, groups; documents compiled during secret investigations; dossiers on police searches; dossiers on unusual events; information dossiers etc.)
- Archives of Investigation dossiers (Archives of

- dossiers compiled during the public investigation phase.)
- Archives of Dead and Deleted materials (A repository for dossiers on persons deleted, but not yet discarded, from the registry; dossiers could be discarded after five or ten years from the date of being entered into the death registry. Certain persons were deleted from the registry, however, their files were not discarded; these dossiers remained in the “Dead archives”).
- Archive “I” (This archive was created in 1984; documents of unsuccessful investigations against unknown perpetrators were kept here.)
- Archives of “Materials from the Horthy era”



Files photograph: Dániel Kovalovszky

Various types of dossiers were compiled from the documents collected in the course of **secret investigations** of "enemies", "enemy" movements and people under surveillance, such as personal, group, police search, object or unusual events dossiers. Personal dossiers contained documents

relating to the surveillance of one person. Group dossiers were prepared when classified investigations were carried out against groups the members of which were in some way related. For conspiracy purposes, both individuals and groups were given code names.

SOME DOCUMENT SAMPLES IN THE GROUP DOSSIERS
- THE DOSSIER UNDER THE CODE NAME "FISHERS FOR MEN"

In 1960, state security ordered a classified investigation of Ödön Lénárd and his associates.

The documents obtained by secret methods were compiled in a dossier titled "Fishers for Men".

BIOGRAPHY OF ÖDÖN LÉNÁRD

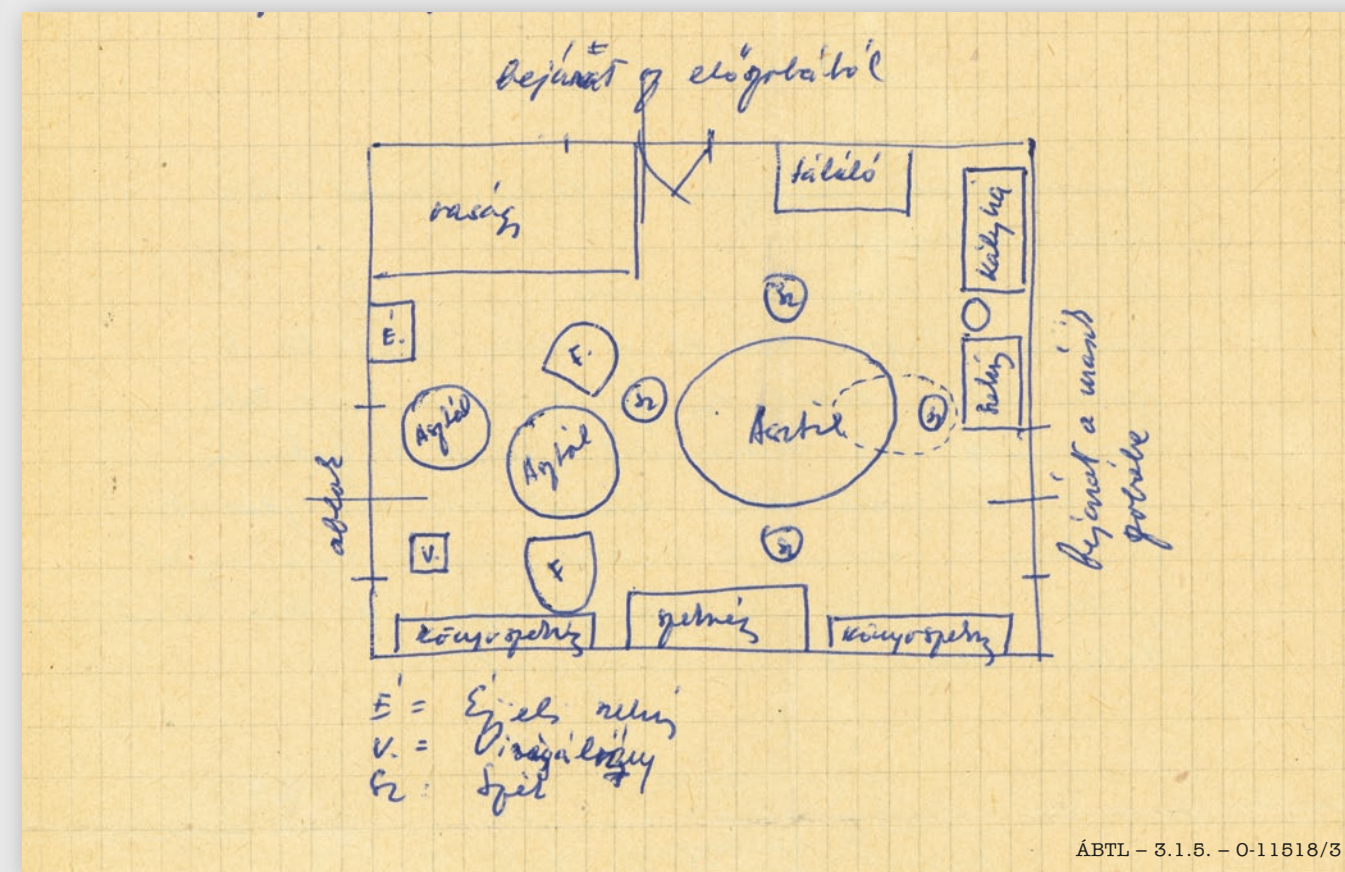
(Budapest, 11 September 1911 – Kismaros, 23 May 2003)
Piarist monk, convicted in three trials
for opposing the authorities

From 1945, he was the Cultural Secretary of Actio Catholica (AC) in Budapest, a movement linked to the Catholic Church. Meanwhile, in 1947, he taught sociology for a year at the religious college. As Secretary of Actio Catholica, his duties included managing the movement against the nationalisation of schools. He was first arrested in 1948, and sentenced to six years in prison on charges of incitement against the state. He was released from prison under an amnesty on 1 August 1953. After being released, he was not given a position in the church, because he did not take an oath to the state. He first worked as a tricycle messenger, then, from 1961, as a water meter reader. In 1961, he was arrested again and sentenced to

seven and a half years in prison for conspiracy. He was released in 1963 under an amnesty. Afterwards, he worked as an administrator. He was arrested for the third time in 1966, and was sentenced first to eight years and then, cumulating all his previous sentences, to 19 years in prison. He was released in 1977 through the personal intervention of Pope Paul VI. From 1979, first in Budapest, then, from 1985, in Kismaros, he led the illegally-founded community of Cistercian Sisters. In 1991, all court judgments against him were annulled by the Supreme Court. Following the change in the political system, until his death, he was engaged in research on the political trials of Catholic priests.

No agents could be recruited to inform on Ödön Lénárd, therefore, it was decided to bug his room. Meticulous planning preceded the installation of the bugging device.

Extract from the plan for the installation of the bugging device.



“The furnishings of the room are old-fashioned; the cupboards indicated on the drawing are all low. In general, none of the furniture is more than one and a half metres high. A three-arm chandelier hangs above the dining table. The ceiling of the room has a damp patch (marked with a dotted circle on the drawing).

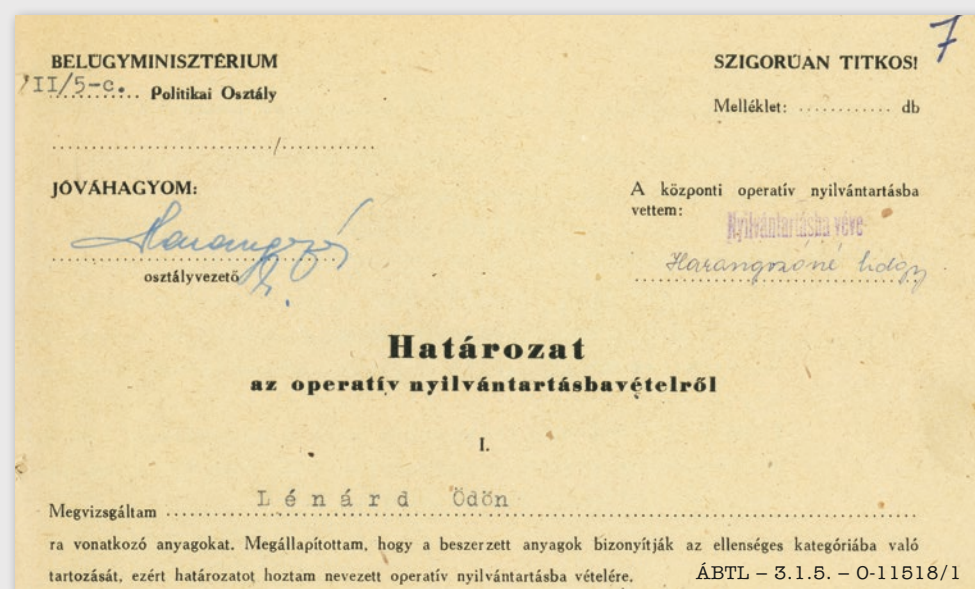
Despite being on the third floor, the room is dimly lit, even during the day. A lace curtain covers the triple window.

The doors and windows are ochre.

There is no telephone in the apartment. Due to lack of observation, I cannot report on the status and condition of the gas pipes and meter, nor on the electrical wiring."

Lénard's room is furnished as follows: entry from the hall entry to the other room iron bed sideboard table window wardrobe stove bookcase

É = bedside table
V = flower stand
SZ = chair



The registration was carried out by Police Lieutenant Mrs Szilveszter Harangozó, who worked on the operational records, and approved by the Head of Subdivision II/5-c, Szilveszter Harangozó.

Extract from the resolution on the operational registration of Ödön Lénárd

Object (line) dossiers were opened for objects of importance for state security, such as factories, schools, ministries, but also embassies, important departments and major facilities of the military, and cultural and scientific institutions. Churches and religious sects were also included here. Data was also collected in object dossiers on persons in different categories created by state security (e.g. aristocrats, gendarmes etc.). The dossiers consisted of two parts. The first part consisted of general reports on the object. The second part related to the people under surveillance associated with the object. In the

case of unusual events (leafleting, making graffiti, arson, mass animal poisoning etc.), the documents generated during the investigation were collected in separate dossier types. Leafleting, making graffiti and flag burning were among the most obvious forms of resistance and protest against the dictatorship. State security services always placed great emphasis on preventing “enemy propaganda activities” and apprehending the perpetrators. Although, in the vast majority of cases, the perpetrators of “enemy activities” could not be found, when they were, they were prosecuted for incitement against the state.

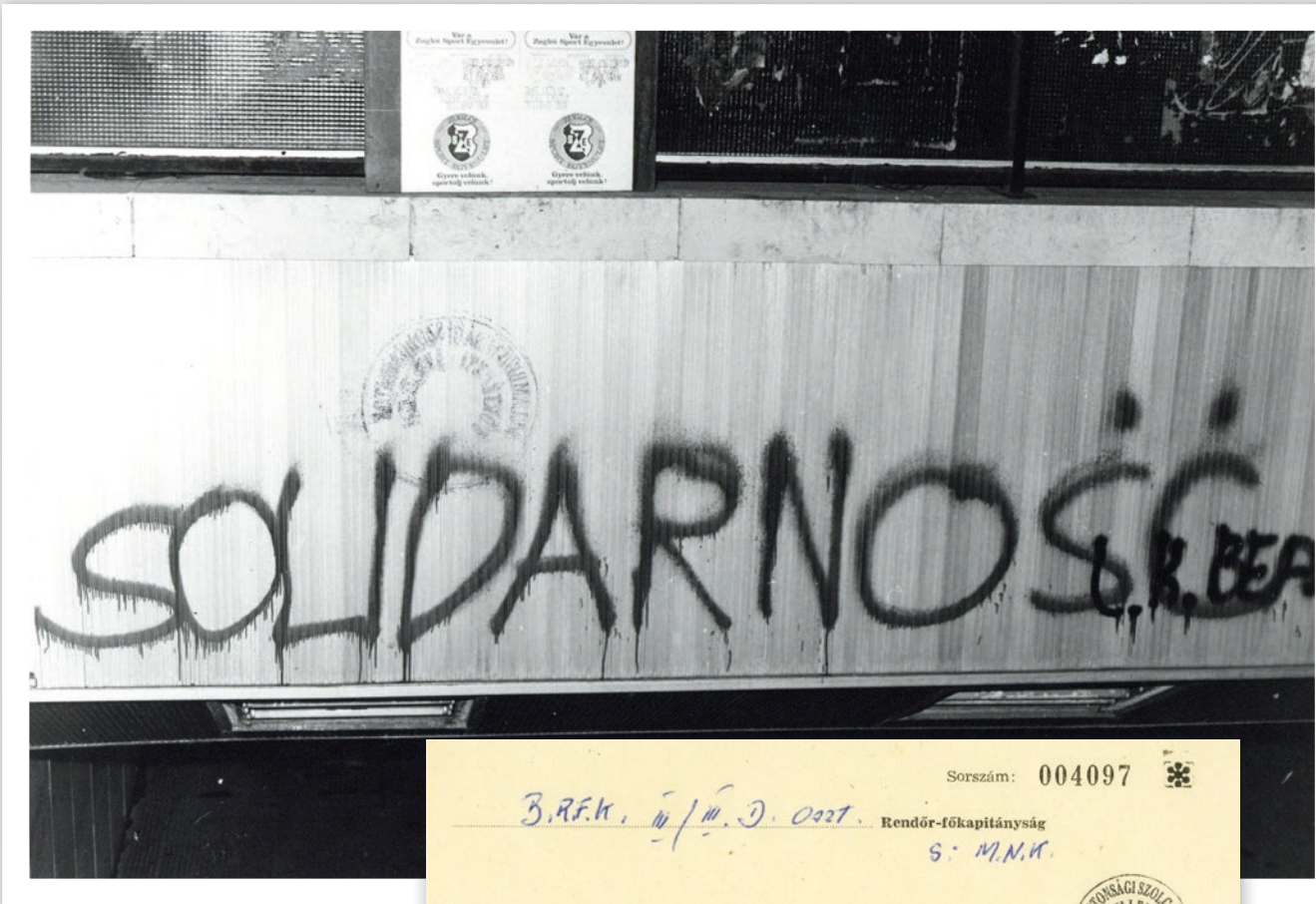
SOME DOCUMENT SAMPLES IN THE UNUSUAL EVENTS DOSSIERS
- THE DOSSIER UNDER THE CODE NAME “WATERFALL”

In October 1982, unknown perpetrators used red, white and green paint to leave graffiti in several places in Budapest, including the Gellért Hill waterfall, to commemorate the Revolution of '56 (“Long live 1956”, “1956”) and Polish events (“SOLIDARNOSC”, “GDANS 80!”). Therefore, Subdivision III/III-D of the Budapest Headquarters of the Hungarian State Police launched a classified investigation under the code name “Waterfall”. The investigation, although there were several suspects, was finally closed in June 1983, with the perpetrators remaining unknown.

Photograph showing the 1956 graffiti on the side of the Gellért Hill waterfall (ÁBTL – 3.1.5. – O-18556)



Photograph of an underpass wall at Örs Vezér Square (ÁBTL – 3.1.5. – O-18556)



In order to find the perpetrators of the graffiti, odour samples were collected and compared with the odour samples taken from the suspects' shoes.

Report on the odour identification, 15 March 1983.

Sorszám: 004097

3. R.F.H. 10/10. D. 0027. Rendőr-főkapitányság S. M.N.K.

JEGYZŐKÖNYV szagazonosításról

Jelen vannak: alulírottak.

1983. év 11. hó 15. nap 10. óra 10. perckor megjelentünk a nevű szolgálati szagazonosító kutyaival a Rendőr-főkapitányság szagazonosító helyiségében.

A bűncselekmény megnevezése: Jégátas

Ügyirat lktatószáma:

A bűncselekmény elkövetésének időpontja: 1982. év 11. hó 19. nap óra perc.

A helyszíni szagnyomok konzerválásának időpontja: 1982. év 11. hó 19. nap óra perc, jegyzőkönyv száma: 018207

A szagazonosítást 5 alkalommal végeztem el.

A szagazonosító kutya BÉLA (személy, tárgy) szagát (személy, tárgy) szagával esetben azonosnak, 5 esetben nem azonosnak jelezte.

Kelt Budapest, 1983. év 11. hó 15. nap.

nyomozókutya-vezető Székely György

szagász, vizsgáló Lukács László

ÁBTL – 3.1.5. – O-18556

State security used a variety of methods to keep people under surveillance. In its classified investigations, state security considered information from the members of the network to be of primary importance among the “secret investigative methods”. In this period, the use of the members of the network enabled state security to gain direct access to the persons, groups and organisations under surveillance, to obtain information and to carry out operations through them more effectively than any other method. The data obtained through network reports also provided opportunities to end the resistance, conduct public house searches, and fuel mistrust within groups. The Recruitment dossiers (B-dossiers) contained material on successful or unsuccessful recruitment. The Work dossiers (M-dossiers) held reports written by the members of the network. Data on

the person’s study, recruitment and cooperation with political investigative bodies were compiled in the Recruitment dossiers. The Recruitment dossiers were sent to the operational records after the exclusion, “rest” (temporary disconnection) or death of the member of the network, or in the event of unsuccessful recruitment. Dossiers were given an archives number with the letter “B”. In the Work dossiers, the handwritten reports of the members of the network – who, based on their relationship to the state security service, could have been agents, residents, informants, secret collaborators etc. – were filed chronologically. If a report was considered valuable, multiple copies were typed up, and the original document was marked indicating which secret investigative dossiers a copy should be placed among. The reports concluded with an evaluation by the case officer and the new task assigned to the network.

Megjegyzés: "Végvári István" tmb. 1964.VI.14.-én lett beszervezve, a 10 éves együttműködés évfordulóját, ill. hozzánk való viszonyát figyelembe véve 1000 Ft. pénzjutalomra való felterjesztését javaslom.

Boruzs István r.őrgy.

ÁBTL - 3.1.2. - M-37760/1

“Note: secret delegate “István Végvári” He was recruited on 14 June 1964, and in view of the 10-year anniversary of cooperation and his relationship with us, I propose a cash award of HUF 1,000.

Police Major István Boruzs

Extract from the report on the secret delegate under the code name “István Végvári”, dated 22 May 1974

Munkája nem volt jó. A találkozókra nem járt el rendesen, minden esetben késve érkezett. A végrehajtott feladatról vagy nem hozott jelentést vagy olyan se mitmondók voltak, hogy nem lehetett felhasználni őket. Azokat a személyeket akikre feladatot kapott úgy tüntette fel, mint ha rendszerünk barátai lennének és kijelentette, hogy semmiféle ellenséges tevékenységben nem vesznek részt,

ÁBTL - 3.1.2. - M-22616

“His work was not good. He did not attend meetings properly, and always arrived late. He either did not report on the task performed, or his reports were so meaningless that they could not be used. He described the people he was assigned to as friends of the system, and declared that they were not involved in any enemy activities.”

Extract from the expulsion report of the agent under the code name “Péter Fekete”, 1964

A summary of the report of the secret delegate under the code name the “Poet” was written and sent to the department that had György Krassó under surveillance (Ministry of Interior

Department III/III-4). There, the report was placed in the surveillance dossier on the secret investigation of György Krassó under the code name “Lidi”.

BUDAPESTI RENDŐRFŐKAPITÁNYSÁG
III/III-B. A L O S Z T Á L Y

42-10/239-85

BM III/III-4. Osztály Vezetőjének
Forgács Lajos r.őrnagy Elvtársnak!

SZIGORUAN TITKOS!

SZIGORUAN TITKOS!	
Tkt. sz.: 11-2865	Lap. sz.: h
Elt.: 1985. MÁJ 27	
Ugyintézős:	

B u d a p e s t

Tájékoztatás céljából az alábbiakban közöljük "Költő" fn.tmb.-nk jelentésének kivonatát:

[...]

Ismerősömtől tudom, hogy 1985. május 12-én vasárnap este 7 óra tájban elment a Lajos u.124. szám alá az Artéria Galériában megrendezendő kiállításra, A kapuban összefutott Molnárral a lakás gazdájával, aki mondta, hogy a kiállítás megnyitóját már szombaton lebonyolították és most csak a kiállítást lehet megtekinteni.

[...]

Ezt követően ismerősöm megtekintette a kiállítást, amely falra főlhelyezett dokumentumokból állt, javarészt a Nyestyé és Sztárai féle recski könyv alapján állították össze a dokumentumok is főleg a könyv dokumentumaiból származnak. Néhány újabb fotó van a tablókön, amelyek különféle felvételek a volt fogolytábor helyéről, de ezeken különösebben nem lehet felismerni, hogy az valaha milyen célt szolgálhatott. Ez alkalommal szintén ott

[...]

Budapest, 1985. május " 23 ".

Agócs István r.ezredes
osztályvezető



Bíró Gyula r.őrnagy
alosztályvezető

Nytsz: 428-456/1985.
Készült: 1 pld. kivonat
Kapja: 1 pld. Cim
Készítette: BGY őrgy/dr.TBné

ÁBTL - 3.1.5. - O - 19619/12

4-1456/85

411-452/85

ÁBTL - 3.1.5. - O - 19619/12

Extract from the report of the agent under the code name “Poet” on the exhibition on the internment camp in Recsk, 1985.

“For information purposes, an extract from the report of the secret delegate under the code name “Poet” can be found below:

I know from an acquaintance that on Sunday 12 May 1985, at about 7 p.m., he went to 124 Lajos Street to attend an exhibition at the Artéria Gallery. At the gate, he met Molnár, the owner of the apartment, who told him that the exhibition had already been opened on Saturday and that now only the exhibition could be seen.

My acquaintance then visited the exhibition, which consisted of wall-mounted documents, mostly based on the book by Nyestyé and Sztárai on Recsk, and mainly consisting of documents from the book. There were a few more photos on the boards, which were various shots of the site of the former prison camp, but they do not particularly reveal what purpose the site once served.”

WHY?

The basic political aspiration of the state socialist system was to restrict and hinder free organisations and enemy activities. Throughout the period, the emphasis on the use of intelligence, prevention, deterrence and reprisal procedures and methods was constantly changing. **State security used various secret methods** (such as disruption, separation, isolation, incitement of intra-group conflicts, discrediting of leaders etc.), **as well as open methods of procedure** (warnings by the police, expulsion, surveillance by the police, detention by

the police (internment), imprisonment) **to prevent the perceived and real organisation of the “enemy”**. In addition to the collection of secret information, state security tasks also included conducting public investigations, preparing criminal proceedings and obtaining evidence necessary for prosecution. The Investigation dossiers contained the files of investigations into persons who had been prosecuted and declared accused. In 1950, some of the internment documents from 1945–1950 were retroactively filed into investigation dossiers.

DOCUMENT SAMPLES RELATING TO INTERNMENT
(CASES OF PERSONS DETAINED IN CAMPS WITHOUT TRIAL)

Belügyminisztérium Államvédelmi Hatósága.

Budapest, VI. Andrássy-út 60. sz.
Távbeszélő sz.: 121–730
Postafiók: 500
Postafiók:

228

Apja: Chován József
Anyja: Bencsik Béla
Főnevelő: Kati Margit

Véghatározat.

Chován Ödön

1925. évi Bpest. születési esztorgályos foglalkozás
utca sz. alatti lakosnak

a 8130/1939. M. E. sz. rendelet 1. §-ának b) pontja és a 228/10/1948 IV. B. M. számú rendelet 2. §-a alapján rendőrhatalmú őrizet alá helyezését (internálását) rendelem el.

Megokolás:

Igy kellett határozni, mert szabadságvesztése a közre és a tervek-
dására, valamint állambiztonság szempontjából veszélyes.

A Hatóság vezetője rendeletéből:
Károlyi Márton áv. alez.

RECSK.

As előttem kihirdetett és internálását elrendelő véghatá-
rosatban jogaimra történt kioktatás után — megnyugvatom — fel-
lebezésemel élek.

Budapest, 1952. Chován Ö.

ÁBTL - 2.1. - III/36 - é (V - 148094/a) ÁBTL - 2.1. - III/36 - é

Internment, a coercive measure introduced after World War I as part of the state administrative procedure, continued after 1945. The police, and later the political police (Department of State Security, State Protection Authority), could deprive people of their freedom without a court ruling. After World War II internment was primarily a form of punishment. However, from 1950 onwards, opponents of the Communist Party were sent to the camps as a “preventive” measure. In addition to internment camps, there were also other closed camps in Hungary with measures restricting personal freedom. Following Stalin’s death in 1953, the camps were closed down. The reprisals that followed the crushing of the revolution revived the internment camps, which operated until 1959.

1. FINAL DECISION

“Justification:
This decision had to be made, because allowing the person to retain their freedom would be dangerous for the public and the planned economy, as well as for state security.”

The final decision of Ödön Chován, interned in one of the show trials, the “social-democratic case”, starting in 1950. Ödön Chován was released when the Recsk camp was closed in 1953.

2. REVIEW REPORT

Szigorúan bizalmas!

J e l e n t é s

Dálnoki Miklós Lajos ügyéről

Budapest, 1952. november 29.-én.

D á l n o k i Miklós Lajos 33 éves volt horthysta hivatásos tisztet 1949. június 7.-én vettük őrizetbe, szervezkedésben való részvétel gyanúja miatt. A lakásban elfogásakor tartott házkutatás során használható állapotban levő pisztolyokat találtunk.

A felszabadulás után volt horthysta tisztekkel tartott szoros kapcsolatot, akik közül többen őrizetbe kerültek demokrácia-ellenes cselekmények miatt. Több olyan személy tartozott baráti körébe, akik ellen bizalmas nyomozás folyt.

1949. július 9. óta van internálva, jelenleg a recski táborban van.

A táborban aktív ellenséges magatartást tanusít. Többször lázított a munka, az élelmezés ellen, valótlan híreket, rágalmakat terjesztett. A munkához való viszonya rossz, dolgozni nem akar, a kiadott munkát nem végzi el.

Nevezett Dálnoki Miklós Béla fia, 1945. december 1.-ig hivatalos tiszt volt, majd a Cukorgyárak Országos Egyesületének titkára.

Az internáltak felülvizsgálatát most fejeztük be.

Javasoljuk fegyverrejtegetés miatt bíróságnak átadni,

Péter Gábor

ÁBTL - 3.1.9. - V-26088

All of the prisoners in the camps had their cases reviewed in 1952.

Report on the case of Miklós Lajos Dálnoki during the 1952 review, bearing the name stamp of Gábor Péter

Report
on the case of Miklós Lajos Dálnoki
Budapest, 29 November 1952

Miklós Lajos Dálnoki, 33 years old, a former Horthy commissioned officer, was arrested on 7 June 1949 on suspicion of involvement in a conspiracy. During the search of his apartment at the time of his arrest, guns in usable condition were found. After the liberation, he kept in close contact with former Horthy officers, many of whom were detained for anti-democratic activities. Several of his friends were under classified investigation. He has been interned since 9 July 1949, he is currently in the camp in Recsk. He is actively hostile in the camp. He has repeatedly incited others against work and food, spread false news and slander. His attitude to work is bad, he does not want to work, and he does not do the assigned work. He is the son of Miklós Béla Dálnoki. He was a commissioned officer until 1 December 1945, then the Secretary of the National Association of Sugar Factories.

The review of internees has just been completed.

We recommended that he be handed over to a court for concealing weapons.
Gábor Péter

3. PLEAS

Mrs József Jankech wanted information about her husband after the 1953 amnesty decree. By then, her husband had been dead for over a year. Although she was informed of his death in reply to this letter, the place of his burial was not made known to her until 1964.

Comrade Chief Prosecutor,

Please allow me to submit my request to you, it is of vital importance for me and for my family. My request is the following:

After our Government's amnesty decree, two of my husband's colleagues, who were also working at the Újpest Thread Factory and were taken away as punishment for the same reasons, have come home, but I have still not received any news of my husband.

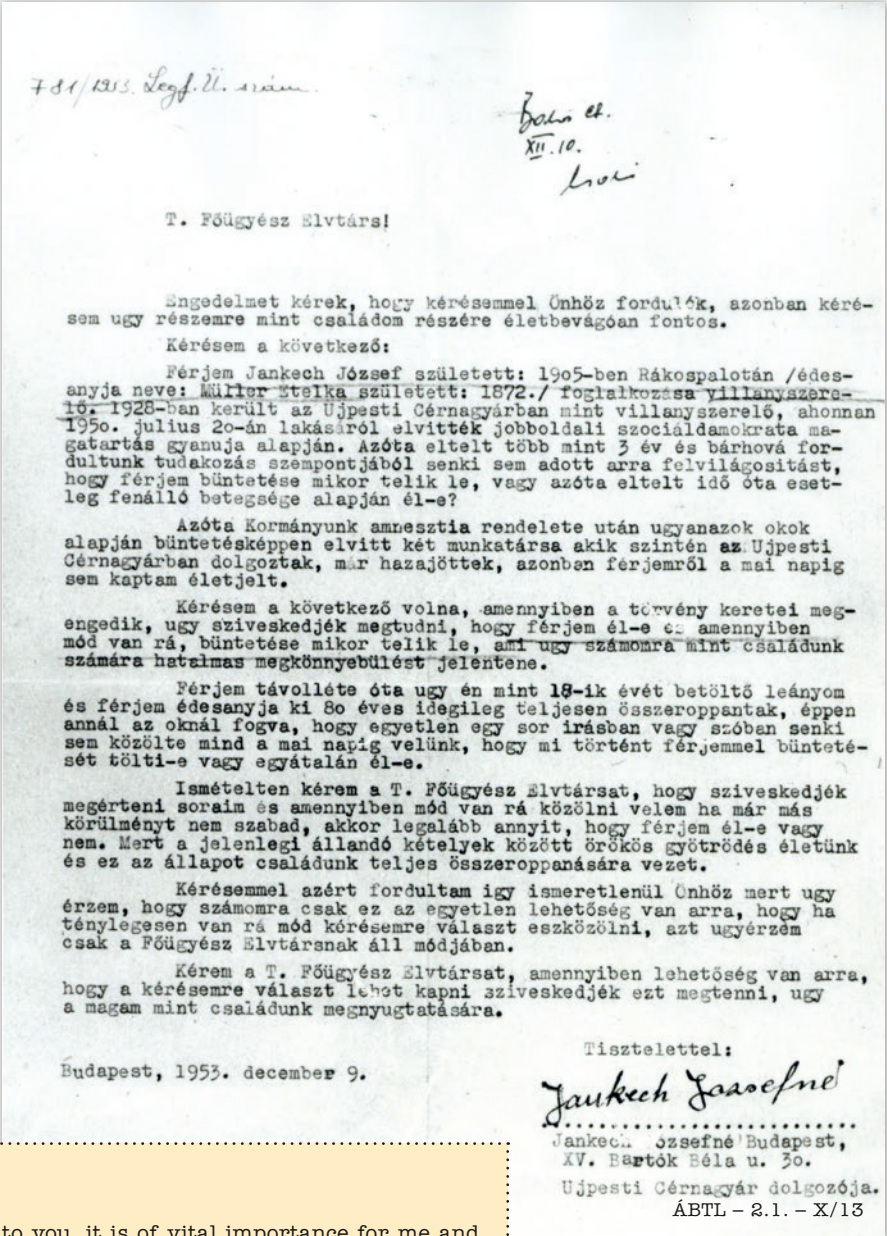
My request would be, if the law allows, to find out if my husband is alive, and when his sentence expires. Knowing this would be a great relief for me and for my family. Since my husband's absence, both my daughter, who is 18, and my husband's mother, who is 80, have been in a state of complete mental collapse, for the very reason that no one has to date informed us, in writing or in words, if my husband is serving his sentence or even alive.

Once again, I ask the Comrade Chief Prosecutor to kindly understand my request and, if possible, to inform me, if nothing else, at least whether my husband is alive or not. Because in the present state of constant doubt, our lives are perpetual torment, and this state is leading to the total collapse of our family.

I have submitted my request to you as a stranger, because I feel that this is the only possibility for me. If there is indeed a way to respond to my request, I feel only the Comrade Chief Prosecutor can do so.

I ask the Comrade Chief Prosecutor, if there is a possibility that my request can be answered, to do so, for my own and our family's peace of mind.

Budapest, 9 December 1953
Yours faithfully,

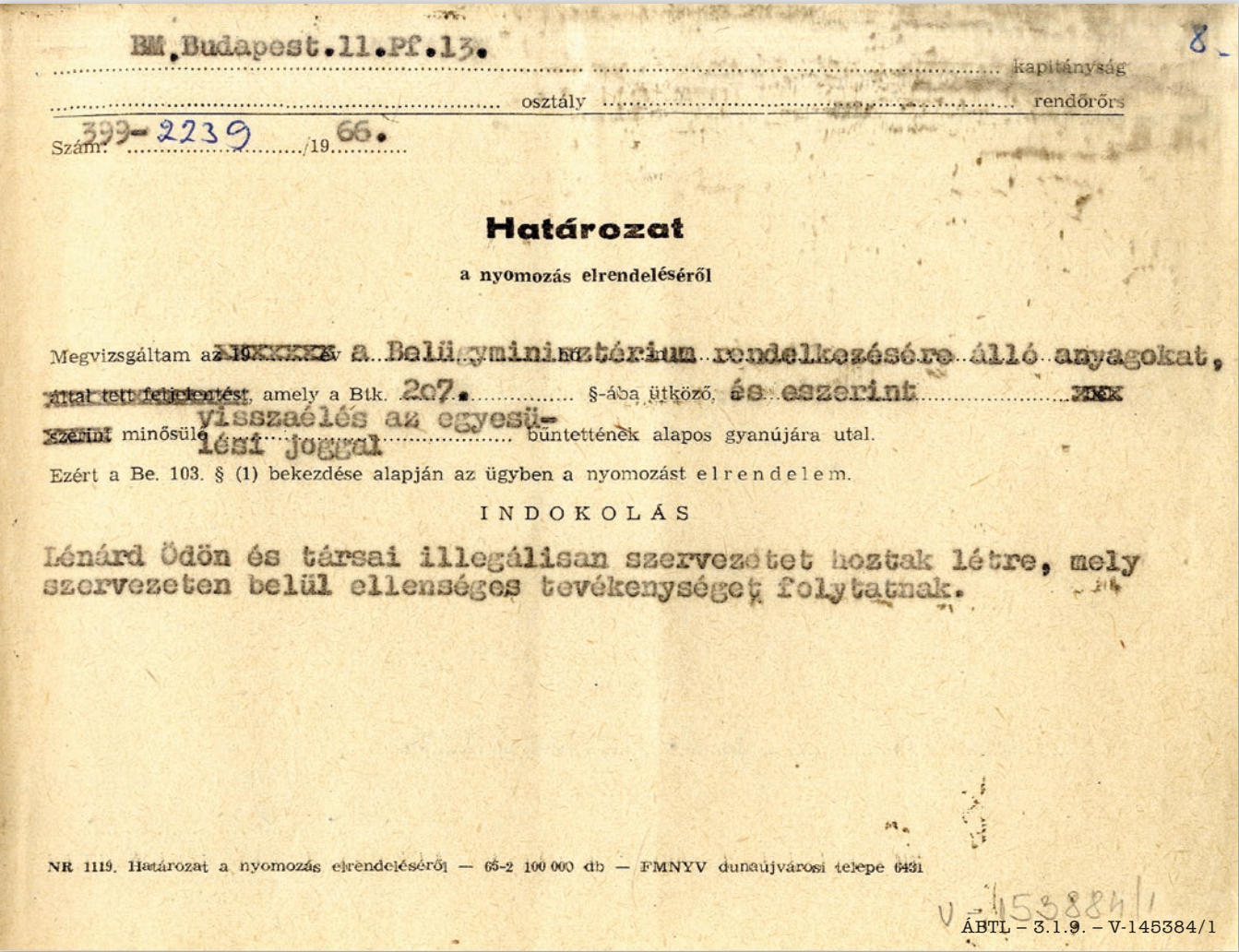


Extract from the letter of Mrs József Jankech to the Chief Prosecution Office in 1953

SOME SAMPLE DOCUMENTS IN THE INVESTIGATION DOSSIERS
- THE INVESTIGATION MATERIAL ON ÖDÖN LÉNÁRD AND HIS ASSOCIATES

The Investigation dossier is where the evidence, evidence log, summary reports on the investigation, decisions relating to the investigation, the indictment etc. were filed.

Some of these documents include:
1. Decision to launch an investigation



DECISION
to launch an investigation

I have examined the material available to the Ministry of Interior. It infringes Section 207 of the Criminal Code, and therefore constitutes a well-grounded abuse of the right of association. As a result, I order the investigation of the case pursuant to Paragraph (1) of Section 103 of the Act on Criminal Procedure.

JUSTIFICATION

Ödön Lénárd and his associates illegally set up an organisation, within which they engaged in enemy activities.

2. Decision to declare charged and to be remanded in custody.

Decision declaring Ödön Lénárd indicted and ordering his pretrial detention, 1966.

Belügyminisztérium

"SZIGORUAN TITKOS!"

Engedélyezem:

Dr. Deák József r. alezr. osztályvezető

Jóváhagyom:

LEGFŐBB ÜGYÉSZ

HATÁROZAT

terheltté nyilvánításról és előzetes letartóztatás elrendeléséről.

Budapest, 1966. április 19.

LÉNÁRT ÖDÖN

Név: (előző név) Budapest, 1911. (szül.év,hó,nap,hely) Bohdaneczky Adél Teréz (anyja neve)

(foglalkozása) adminisztrátor (családi állapota) nőtlen

(büntetve) büntetett (állampolgársága) magyar

Budapest, VIII., József krt. 62. III. em. 21.

207.§.-ba sz. alatti lakos alaposan visszaélés az egyesülési joggal

gyanusítható a Btk. 207.§.-ba ütköző

terheltté nyilvánítom.

Egyidejűleg a Be. 120. §. / 1/ bekezdés b./ c./ d./ pontja / i/ alapján előzetes letartóztatását rendelem el.

Az előzetes letartóztatás a Be. 123. §. / 1/ bekezdése értelmében az előkészítő ülésig, de legfeljebb 1 hónapig tart.

Az előzetes letartóztatás kezdődik: 19. 66. év. ápr. .hó. 19. nap. . . óra.

Az előzetes letartóztatás lejár: 19. 66. év. máj. .hó. 19. nap. . . óra.

E határozat ellen panasznak helye nincs.

Indokolás: Nevezett a BM. rendelkezésére álló adatok szerint alaposan gyanúsítható azzal, hogy létrehozója és irányítója egy illegális szervezetnek, aminek tagjait népi demokráciaellenes szellemben neveli. Nevezett előzetes letartóztatása indokolt, mert szabadról hagyása esetén szökésétől, a büntett felderítésének meggyújtásától, a bűncselekmény tovább folytatásától tartani lehet.

ÁBTL - 3.1.9. - V-153884/1

"Justification: According to the information available to the Ministry of Interior, there is good cause to suspect him of being the founder and leader of an illegal organisation, the members of which he educates in an anti-democratic spirit. His being remanded in custody is justified because, if he is released, there is a risk that he will escape, that the investigation of the crime will fail and that the crime will continue."

3. Note about the accused

Note on the allowances of the accused ÖDÖN LÉNÁRD

Belügyminisztérium

Bpest. 11. Pr. 13.

70

LEHÍRÍTÉS

LÉNÁRD ÖDÖN terhelte kedvezményeiről.

Lénárd Ödön /Bpest, 1911. szept. 11. Bohdaneczky Adél/ terhelte 1966. április 19-től kezdődően van őrizetünkben, azóta a következő kedvezményekben részesült:

Két alkalommal beszélt hozzátartozóival.

Két alkalommal kapott élelmiszer és tisztasági csomagot.

Egy alkalommal beszélt védőjével.

A felsorolt kedvezményekben részesültem.

Budapest, 1966. június 30.

Lénárd Ödön terhelte.

ÁBTL - 3.1.9. - V-153884/1

"Justification: According to the information available to the Ministry of Interior, there is good cause to suspect him of being the founder and leader of an illegal organisation, the members of which he educates in an anti-democratic spirit. His being remanded in custody is justified because, if he is released, there is a risk that he will escape, that the investigation of the crime will fail and that the crime will continue."

4. Interrogation plan

Interrogation plan to the first interrogation of Ödön Lénárd, 1966.

Belügyminisztérium

III/1-b. Alosztály.

Szigoruan titkos!

Tárgy: Lénárd Ödön terhelte 1. kihallgatása.

66

Kihallgatási terv.

Budapest, 1966. április 18.

A Btk. 207. §-ba ütköző egyesülési joggal való visszaélés alapos gyanúja miatt 1966. ápr. 19-én előzetes letartóztatásba helyeztük Lénárd Ödönt, egyidejűleg lakásán és munkahelyén házkutatást tartunk.

Első kihallgatása során taktikailag az összeesküvés gyanúját érzékeltessük, ez megkönnyíti a vallomástételét az egyesülési joggal való visszaéléssel kapcsolatban /tevékenységét összeesküvés helyett ennek állítja be/.

Tisztázandó kérdések:

1. Az 1963. márciusban történt szabadulása után fentartotta-e népi demokrácia-ellenes politikai felfogását.
2. Azóta kikkel vett fel kapcsolatot volt bűntársai közül.
3. Ismertesse részletesen a kapcsolatfelvételt Timár Ágnessal!
4. Hogyan folytatták korábbi közös népi demokrácia-ellenes tevékenységüket./Csoportok létrehozása, céljuk meghatározása, tevékenységük irányítása, stb./.

Dr. Fehér Gyula r. szds. /

ÁBTL - 3.1.9. - V-153884/3

Interrogation plan.

Budapest, 18 April 1966

On 19 April 1966, we will take Ödön Lénárd into custody on suspicion of abuse of the right of association in violation of Section 207 of the Criminal Code, and simultaneously search his home and workplace.

During his first interrogation, we will tactically suggest a conspiracy, which facilitates his testimony about the abuse of the right of association /he claims his activities are exercising the right of association, not a conspiracy/.

Questions to be clarified:

Following his release from prison in March 1963, did he maintain his anti-people's democracy views?

Which of his former accomplices has he contacted since then?

Describe in detail his contact with Ágnes Timár!

How have they continued their previous joint anti-people's democracy activities? /Creating groups, defining their purpose, managing their activities etc./

Police Captain Dr. Gyula Fehér

5. Interrogation report (Witness, suspect, accused)

Extract from the interrogation report on the first interrogation of Ödön Lénárd, 1966.

BM.Bp.11.Pf.13. osztály kapitányság rendőrőrs

Szám: 399-2273 /1966.

Gyanúsított*, terhelt* kihallgatásáról jegyzőkönyv

Készült Budapest 1966. évi április hó 19 napján órákor

Lénárd Ödön gyanúsított*, terhelt* (kihallgatás helye) BM.Bp.

II. Gyorskocsi u 31 III. em. 352. helyiségben történő kihallgatása alkalmával.

ÁBTL – 3.1.9. – V-163884/3

[...]

Tagadom, hogy bárkit népi demokrácia ellenes szellemben neveltem volna. Meg kívánom mondani, hogy rk. egyházam álláspontja az, hogy pap ne politizáljon és ehhez én tartom magamat. Nincs semmilyen politikai meggyőződésem, csak vallási és vallás-erkölcsi kérdésekkel foglalkozom.

KÉRDÉS: Büntetőintézetből történt legutobbi /1963. márciusi/ szabadulása óta milyen volt bűntársaival, államellenes szervezkedés miatt elítéltekkel vett fel, illetve tartott kapcsolatot?

FELELET: Erre a kérdésre nem vagyok hajlandó válaszolni, mert - mint említettem - válaszom személyeket érintene, és konkrét személyekről nem nyilatkozom.

KÉRDÉS: Hány esetben, mikor, kiknek, milyen témájú előadást tartott?

FELELET: Előadást nem tartottam. Vallási, vallás-erkölcsi kérdésekről tartottam összefüggő ismertetést és folytattam beszélgetést másokkal.

KÉRDÉS: Kiket, hogyan nevelt Ön közösségi életre?

FELELET: Községi életet nem szerveztem. Két-három együtt-lakó személy részére tanácsokat adtam a közösségi élet reményének kialakítására, a felmerülő viták, problémák leküzdésére. Ezzel kapcsolatban neveket nem vagyok hajlandó mondani. Ilyen természetű tanácsok adása mostani leltartóztatásomig fordult elő több esetben.

ÁBTL – 3.1.9. – V-163884/3

Interrogation report on the suspect, accused

Written in Budapest on the 19th day of April 1966 at ... during the interrogation of suspect accused Ödön Lénárd, (place of interrogation) Ministry of Interior, room 352, 2nd floor, 31 Gyorskocsi Street, district 2, Budapest.

[...] I deny that I have educated anyone in an anti-democratic spirit. I would like to say that the position of my Roman Catholic Church is that priests should not engage in politics, and I stand by that. I have no political beliefs, I only deal with religious and religious-ethical issues.

QUESTION: Since your last release from prison in March 1963, what contact have you had or maintained with former accomplices, prisoners convicted of conspiracy against the state?

ANSWER: I am not prepared to answer this question because, as I said, my answer would concern individuals, and I do not make statements on specific individuals.

QUESTION: How many times, when, to whom and on what topics did you hold lectures?

ANSWER: I did not hold lectures. I gave coherent presentations and held discussions with others on religious, and religious-ethical issues.

QUESTION: Who did you educate for community life, and how?

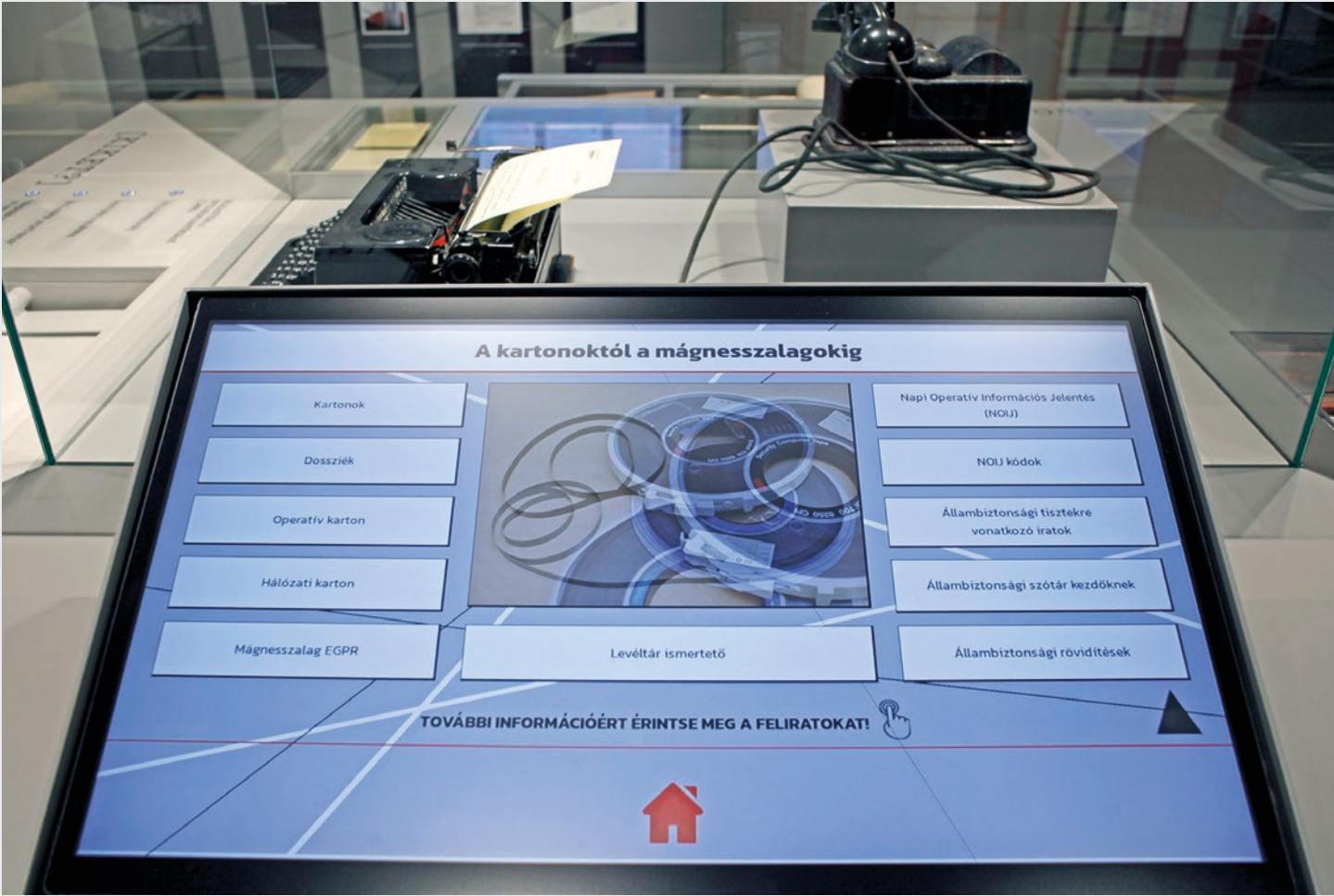
ANSWER: I did not organise any community life. I gave advice to two or three people living together on how to organise their community life, and how to overcome disputes and problems.

I refuse to list names in this regard. I have given advice of this nature on several occasions up until my current arrest. [...]

BY WHOM?

Classified and public investigations were carried out by professional members of the political police and state security, who, depending on the nature of their duties, could be either public or top-secret officers. Most of the time, top-secret officers also had a cover job in a workplace where their

colleagues were unaware of their state security ties. In the exhibition, visitors can read about the careers of several state security officers on a monitor presenting the organisation, while the types of documents relating to the members of state security are described on a monitor in the showcase.



photograph: Dániel Kovalovszky

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The camp in Recsk through the wire fence.
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The State Protection Authority’s guard of honour.
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One of the boards of the operational records exhibition.
The Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security;
Mugshot of Mrs Sándor Sváb.
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