

Letter to Andrea

1

Haifa, October 22, 1994

Dear Andrea,

he was so happy that we finally made it once more to Toms River. He was his old self, his smile and humor, as I knew him, and as I recall my mother. Actually, never did the similarity of their expression strike me more, than during this last encounter. The premonition of the approaching end, coming to it knowing that the end is close, accepting it, letting go, I went through this with my mother very intensely, and when I took leave from Dénes, he had the same relaxed facial expression. They died in dignity, knowingly, they both learned it from their mother.

Back in 1959, Rozsi Deutsch was coming to her end, suffering from liver cancer. The last time I had seen her was before Christmas 1958. She was at home, Dr. Esselier, the family doctor, treated her at home. The proud woman never lost her composure. For Christmas and New Year I was sent skiing, in Klosters, the Davos–Parsenn region, where your father had spent many happy moments during the war. On New Year's eve I called her on the phone, to wish her well. This was the last time I had spoken with her. In January I have seen her, glancing through the door. I wasn't allowed in the her room, children should be kept away from approaching death. She lied in her bed, her face greenish, suffering in silence, holding up the appearance of the grand lady. Grandfather, Dénes and Marika, around her, a nurse taking care of the nasty details of suffering. She was given morphium to ease the pains. On February 1, a day before her 67th birthday, she passed away.

When my mother reached the same point in her life, I finally understood. She also wanted to leave this place as a woman in beauty and pride. In April 1987 I asked her. Whether she feared death, or whether the loss of her physical independence bothered her more. No, with death, she said, she was reconciled. She had seen death, during the war, as a prisoner, in the camp, in the streets of Budapest during the final days of the war. She was 21 then, they had robbed her of her promising youth. The doctors suggested treatments. What would it give her, she asked, another two or three years of life, together with the loss of dignity. Chemotherapy would make her loose her hair, mark her, no she didn't need that. Her life was dedicated to beauty, her profession was fashion. Her dream, professionally, was to become the agent of Karl Lagerfeld. She was known as the best fashion agent in Switzerland, and beyond the borders. She had dedicated her life to it. And indeed, while already on her death bed, the offer did come. A phone call, are you interested in presenting Karl Lagerfeld's collection in fall 1987 ? She refused treatment, courageously, and when the

doctors did not push the idea further, she asked me, is it that bad ? Later, one doctor didn't like her approach. One has to do something. One cant leave you like this ! You are not worried about me, she replied, it is you, who cannot face death approaching. The doctor turned silent for very long. Finally he murmured: May be, I have never thought of it that way. And then she stopped eating, drank just a glass of vegetable juice a day and waited for it to happen. Two hours before she died, she kicked out a friend from Vienna, who had insisted to see her in her recluse. She was aware who it was, but first declined to respond to the questions. It's me, I forgot her name, do you recognize me ? Mother turned away her face. It's me. Are you suffering ? Silence. Louder: Are you suffering ? Silence. Do you recognize me ? Ich bin doch nicht blöd ! (I didn't loose my wits). Do I disturb you. Yes ! Sould I go ? Yes ! And two hours later she died in my arms. This was in July.

She had learned it from her mother, we have to learn death, it is the last lesson our parents can give us, if they themselves are capable of giving the lesson. And it may be the dearest lesson. Grandmother could. My mother did, and so did your father. It took him a long time to find his moment, he suffered bravely during 25 years of illness and he achieved victory in his lonely struggle. He went, with no additional complications and pains, after a happy moment he had longed for. May God, or whatever, grant him peace beyond this.

2

The royal children, they were called in Budapest, with admiration and envy. Louise nenyi told me, and so did Kitty Gottesmann, a former class mate of Marika, whom I used to know well and whom I met in Israel in 1989. The royal children had a bright future: Sandor, your grandfather, was at the height of his success. In 1938 he became Generaldirector of Hungaria AG, the highest managing officer of the leading chemical industries of Hungary and Slowakia. He was rich, respected and feared. The future of your father was clear: study chemistry and prepare yourself for the continuation of fathers empire. My mother was to study, possibly law, and to marry according to her social standing. Nobody would have to work for his living. But both were marked out to play leading roles. Grandfather had been offered the ministry of commerce in 1936 but rejected it under the pressures of grandmother, a wise woman. The political situation in Hungary was unstable, adventurous, the mood was anti-semitic. Grandfather was a proud jew. In 1939, while your father was with grandfather in London and my mother spent the summer in Switzerland, Hitler's troupes invaded Poland and set the stage for the drama, which would mark your and my life, more than you possible can imagine. Dénes, then 18, would stay abroad and begin his studies in Zurich, which was to become his emotional home town. Marika, then 16, was evacuated from Switzerland and transported back to Hungary, where the rest of the family reunited. Only grandmother kept insisting

that they should all emigrate. Grandfather's influence and connections kept him clear from disaster, as long as Horthy ruled Hungary. He led the company he managed through the first war years very successfully both for them and his own account. Dénes spent money and time and Switzerland, happy, learning and hanging around among emigre circles, with an allowance of 1000 SFR per month, which, according to today's buying power would be more close to 10'000 US\$. This is when Dénes first met Hanni.

Marika studied agriculture in Budapest, having to sit on the Judenbank (a special bench in the lecture halls where all the jews who were admitted to university had to sit). It was not her choice topic, agriculture, but her father decided that to protect his huge estate in Palotas-Hehalom, which otherwise would have been partially nationalized by the populist Horthy regime. In 1943 Marika was engaged to Fery, who still lives in Australia. I think you may have met him when you were there. Fery was not only mother's big love, but also fit the plans of her father. The wedding preparations were in full swing, when in March 1944 the SS invaded Hungary and took control. Grandfather, grandmother, Marika and Fery were among the first to be arrested. The story is complex, and I will tell you all I know. But this March 19, 1944 was not yet the end of Horthy's Hungary, only the beginning of the end of the flourishing jewish community in Budapest. But it was the end of the secure and protected future of the royal children. They would all survive, with the help of courage, money, luck, connections, but both Dénes and Marika would find themselves in 1945/46 in a different world, a world they were not prepared for.

changed

3

Dénes finished his doctorate in 1946 and was sent to New York to meet a fiancée chosen by his father, a hungarian christianed girl from a good jewish family. Hanni travelled after him, and in spite of fierce opposition by Dénes' parents, Hanni and Dénes got married. I have copies of letters exchanged then between Sandor and Dénes. There must be many more letters among your father's papers. Don't through them away. I want to read them. I will translate them to you, if you are curious enough to know more. I assume that before the war most of grandfather's objections against Hanni were inexistent. On the contrary, Hanni and Dénes would have been, from grandfather's point of view, an almost perfect match. She, swiss, a daughter of an important chemical engineer, he the heir to an empire of chemical industries. She was not jewish, true, but Dénes was baptized already in 1937, or so. The objections had to do with Sandor's war experience in Berlin and Hanni's education in the circles of the bourgeois Nazi sympathizers in Berlin. Madli, Hanni's sister told me a lot during a long night's discussion just shortly after Marika's death. Dénes wanted to find his own way, he did not want to be bullied around anymore. He hoped that starting a new life with Hanni in the US would let him be himself. He longed for a normal life,

being part of the engineering elite on his own merits, surrounded by his own family, with parents and sister emotionally near but not too near. He was struck by tragedies again and again: the loss of his first born son, the sudden death of his parents. The disappearing family fortune. The disaster of married life. And then this cruel, slow illness. You were his greatest treasure. In spite of limited communication between you two, he loved you dearly, tenderly, and yes, I know, love can hurt and chain, he tried to find the best for you, as he understood it, learned to understand it while struggling through a changing world.

But the shadows of his father's plans continued to haunt him and you, yes you, my dear Andrea. For he was bullied around by his father till he finally died. So was my mother, so was I. So were even his nephews Peter and Erich. Grandfather's ego was overblown, his success real, his compassion reserved. I started to go my own way after he died. But only after my mother died I started to feel really grown up. The death of our parents is the last moment of our childhood. And still, they are not gone, we cant escape their memory, we have to cope with it. Coping with their departure. Coping with what they left behind. Coping is the labour of mourning, as Mitscherlich, a German Psychologist and Intellectual called it. Mitscherlich spoke also of our inability to mourn, this was after World War II, and he meant all of us who were affected by it. Mitscherlich was one of the outspoken voices in Germany after the war. There were too few like him.

4

Budapest and Berlin, the town of your parents who were born in the Golden Twenties. It was a period during which very few got very rich, and many were very poor. Like in Russia today, or, for that matter, in East Berlin and Budapest. There are very good documentations about this period. I will send you a list of references, literary and historiographic. Our grandparents were among those for whom the twenties were golden. I don't know when the Stöckli family moved to Berlin. But I assume shortly after World War I. Switzerland was poor then, and a promising graduate of the ETH would rather look for his chances abroad.

Budapest and Berlin.

Rozsi Deutsch was married and widowed before Sandor took her as his wife. This was before World War I. She was born in 1891. She was 23 when the war broke out. When she was widowed she may have been 25. Possibly less. They had now children. With her first husband, of whom we know little, she lived in Berlin as well. But he fell on the front, so they say. One of her brothers, Marci, was captured on the eastern front, deported to Siberia and returned to Hungary on foot arriving only in 1921. In World War I the jews were proud to give their lives. Only in World War II they were murdered separately. Rozsi was born in Budapest, married and widowed in Berlin, remarried in Budapest and exiled in

Zurich.

Grandfather Sandor was born in Trnava, then Tirnau, in 1887. This is in Slovakia (since 1991). Before that it was in CSSR (communist), Slovak Republik (fascist), Czechoslovak Republik, Hungarian Kingdom, Habsburgian Empire, etc... Grandfather had many half-siblings and siblings, all children of David Deutsch, the earliest documented ancestor. Sandor's mother tongue was German. He corresponded with your father in German, at least in the letters I have seen. He studied in Vienna at some Handelshochschule, a sort of business school. His first serious job was with the German controlled bone glue (bone reprocessing from slaughtered animals) cartell in Budapest. In 1912, aged 25, he asked his father for an advance payment on his inheritance, and started business on his own. Basically he used Hungarian (Magyar) nationalist feelings among the smaller butchers to break the German controlled cartell. He succeeded and during World War I he amassed a fortune producing glue and other stuff recycling waste from slaughter houses. His own factory was renowned for the stench it produced. When he finally courted our grandmother, he showed her a building site of a villa near completion. This is what I built, do you agree to be my wife. She did. Rumor has it, that while Rozsi was married and widowed in Berlin, he had an affair with Rozsi's mother. They lived together in Budapest till they were arrested by the SS. The villa survived the war, but was bombed by an American airplane a few days after the armistice. The pilot didn't want to carry his bombs back unused. After his arrest, Sandor was deported to Berlin. A Nazi friend arranged that. He spent the last year of the war, including the battle for Berlin, in a special forced labour camp, which really was a research institute preparing for the economic reconstruction of Germany after the war. The Red Army liberated him. He returned to Budapest in fall 1945, resumed his position as general manager of Hungaria AG and played high stake politics. In 1948, while he was on a business trip to Zurich, Hungaria was nationalized and he stayed. I was born prematurely, as a result of the excitement. But that's another story. Rozsi, Marika and I joined him in 1949. By then Zurich was the center of the family.

Berlin, Zurich.

Your mother returned to Zurich in 1940 together with her parents, when the situation in Berlin became unbearable. Madli was married to a pilot of the Waffen SS, the German elite corps. She stayed. Grandfather Stöckli got a very high pension from his former employers, under condition that he would not reveal what he had worked for. It must have been an important project, and he must have played an important role in it. What it was, we don't know. At least, Madli didn't, so she claimed, and I believe her. She was very frank, when she told me all that. IG Farben, the biggest German chemical industry, was involved in Auschwitz, processing the remains of slaughtered humans, Jews mostly, but not exclusively. Gypsies and homosexuals were also targeted, mentally handicapped and communists as well. IG Farben was a business partner of Hungaria AG. Other companies were involved in producing poison gas for the war and other

nasty stuff. Ironically, both Sandor and grandfather Stöckli were awfully close to the power center of the evil Nazi machinery. Did Sandor know of Auschwitz' bone processing plant? Did grandfather Stöckli know? They might have, but then again, may be not. The company, for which grandfather Stöckli worked, was the leading producer of synthetic silk in Germany. He later, after the war, continued to do consulting with a related company in Holland. added

Dénes wanted to start a new life. He was sheltered during the war in Zurich and Davos. He had a good time there. I don't know whether Sandor corresponded with him during his deportation. I have the letters Sandor sent to my mother. And also those my mother sent back. When I read time a lon time ago, I thought they had little content. They were censored by the Gestapo. Grandfather is mostly concerned about the wellbeing of his wife and daughter. He gives instructions concerning money. He was not allowed to write about his own situation. These letters served mostly to reassure sender and receiver. I doubt, that Sandor would have been allowed to write to Switzerland. If you have such letters keep them by all means. The war was over on May 9, 1945. Budapest was liberated by the Red Army a few days before. My mother used to tell me stories that the Red Army prevented the Germans from sending her to the camps, to Auschwitz. This would mean that she had been rearrested. Her stories were contradictory. But when I noted such contradictions, she always stuck to her current version, and claimed, I was imagining things. Like in the story with the jumping worms. changed

5

The story of the jumping worms.

When I was six I had a nanny. She told me that in Italy people would eat cheese with live worms in it. The more worms the better the cheese. Those worms would jump, really jump, twenty centimeters, there body bending, like a bow, when you shoot an arrow. And then, suddenly, they'd jump. People would eat those worms with the cheese, catch the escapees with a piece of bread, delicious.

Later I retold my mother the story. You making it up, or the nanny made it up, impossible. But in 1975 in Sardegna I met these worms and ate them. I was there for a conference, I had a car and had arrived a day early. I was driving around, in the open landscape to the west, where the desert was. I picked up a hitchhiking soldier. Where do you go, he asked, and I said, anywhere, wherever you want. Impossible, no, I am serious, I'll take you to your place. Protest, but finally he was happy to agree. We crossed the desert, made it to a village where people didn't speak Italian anymore, just Sardi, a village like in Padre Padrone, the film of the Taviani brothers. Once arrived there, I was treated like honoured guest, invited in to eat. What I would like, and had I requested from them to slaughter a goat, they would have done it. I tried to reject, in vain, and finally

we settled for their local daily diet. White very dry vine, more like vinegar, dry bread, some olives and sausages. And then the cheese with jumping worms. They wanted to challenge me, were watching me, as the worms started to jump, but I ate it with them, as if I had done this all my life. It was exactly, as nanny had described it. They confessed, it was illegal, the food and drug authorities prohibited the selling of the delicacy. I inquired about the origin of the worms, what kind of a fly it was, who laid her eggs into the milk, but, no fly, this milk was clean, the worms were the natural result of the cheese reaching its peak, they insisted.

I just made it up, dear mother, like my memories of Baden, when I got lost in the Grand Hotel, I was three then. Or the memories of my tricycle in the Wellenberg apartment in Zurich, and of the big dog of the caretaker there. Some things Marika forgot, or didn't want to remember. Her involvement in politics in Hungary in 1947, but when my father died I got the pictures, she pregnant with me, at a reception with all the luminaries of the time, Hungarian government, Rumanian government, Z. Kodaly, the composer, Sadoveanu, minister of culture of Rumania and important writer of Rumanian Socialist Realism, Rakoci, later Stalinist ruler of Hungary, Jenö, my other grandfather and my father, who had done the backstage preparation for the first Hungarian–Rumanian economic cooperation treaty after the war. This was in January 1948.

6

But in 1945, after the liberation of Budapest by the Red Army, after the liberation of Berlin by the Allied Forces (the Red Army did the bulk of the battle and suffered most sacrifices), for six months the whereabouts of Sandor were unclear. Was he dead ? Did Dénes know then where his family was, did he worry ? He graduated from ETH in 1944, probably in Spring or Summer. On March 19 his parents were arrested, shortly after, Marika and Rozsi were released on bail. The sum paid was huge, and they had to report every second day at the Gestapo head quarters in Hotel Astoria. This is not far from the grand Synagogue at Dohnany utza. Sandor was kept in jail but Marika was allowed to visit him regularly. In May Sandor was deported to Berlin. Dénes continued his studies in Zurich, he finished his Ph.D. thesis in 1946, after the family reunion, after the war was over. I have pictures of a family reunion in Zurich, probably from 1946. I don't recall Dénes talking about this. Dénes was in love with Hanni, Dénes was doing research in the Lab for Chemical Engineering, under Prof. Guyer. Before Prof. Guyer was appointed professor in Zurich in 1932, he was general manager of a plant belonging to the Ausziger Verein, in Czechoslovakia. The Ausziger Verein owned later 51 % of the shares of Hungaria AG. Before 1932 Sandor and Prof. Guyer did not meet.

In 1946, Dénes was in a revolting mood. He didn't like his father, but he used his money abundantly. He was mommy's boy. Soft, vulnerable, tender,

frail. His relations with Marika were not too good either. Marika didn't like Hanni. Again the war experience may have been a source. Dénes and Marika had been separated for seven years or so. As children they were never really close, age difference played a role early. They had different nannies. Boys went to boys' school, girls to girls' school. But the true source of disenchantment was an incident in late 1946. Marika was pregnant from my father, but unmarried. She had been sent to Zurich for an abortion, financed by friends of hers. The abortion was illegally performed by a doctor for the rich. It ended in complications. Marika was bleeding. And Hanni and Dénes refused to help, on catholic moral grounds. Her parents never learned about this. She told me all sitting on the floor of my boheme apartment in Florence, Via delle belle donne, beautiful woman street, in 1975. It is a small street not far from Santa Maria Novella, where the local whores served the local clients. She had dropped her appearances and we were close. Like old chaps, we spoke for three days and nights, and she opened up. Outside the communists had their big rallies, the Brigade Rosse where shooting representatives of the establishment, mostly into their legs. I was a visiting professor at the university, divorced, after two more love stories, and in the middle of my second romantic-mathematical courtship with a married fellow mathematician. But I get carried away.

7

Budapest, Zurich, Berlin, Haifa.

I was born in Budapest. At age 1 one I was a passive emigrant. I grew up in Zurich. School, studies (yes at the ETH like your father, with Ph.D. or rather D.Math. as he would proudly insist on), first love, first marriage, first divorce. A true Swiss girl, even more than Hanni, christian, from a moderately anti-semitic family. A full chapter of life. In 1972 I left Zurich for Warsaw, and never returned for good. Visits, yes, prolonged visits sometimes, but I started my vagaries. Stanford, Ca., Vancouver, B.C., Florence, Italy and then Berlin. From 1975 till 1980. A love story with a paintress (we stayed friends), marriage with a good jewish girl of Israeli-Polish origin. Her father was on Schindler's list, most of the family was murdered by the Nazis. Amichai was born there, Irith's pregnancy we discovered in Budapest. Yuval was born in Berlin. In Berlin I finished my Habilitation, a big doctorate, which qualifies me for university teaching. And then we left for Haifa. The marriage deteriorated. During a conference in Berlin I fell in love with Ildi from Budapest, another romantic mathematical affair. I year later I spent two weeks with her in Budapest, writing a paper with her, romantic-mathematical love consummated. This led to my second divorce, with Marika's help, strange enough, as I was not ready for that. Neither was Marika, when she divorced my father. There Sandor had to intervene and bully her out of it with blackmail and more. Marika died during her last victory over me. Then Zurich, as an interlude, Berlin as well. In Berlin

I founded a company, which is slowly becoming a success, loved again, applied for professorship and got it. But history intervened. The woman left for Toronto, Berlin got reunited and I stayed in Haifa.

8

Dénes as a student in Zurich. He liked to talk to me about it, already when I was a child. On Winterthurerstrasse, above the chemical institutes, there is a little restaurant, Pan. It was his hangout, there the Hungarian emigres met and ate and drunk. The owners changed over the years, now it is a place specializing in Ticinese specialities, Swiss-Italian. Before it was alternately Hungarian, Swiss German, and I do not know what else. I used to eat there also while a student, and the place always evokes in me Dénes' memory. He lived at Leonhardstrasse as a student, near the Hotel Leoneck. The church, where you were baptized, Andrea, is there, too. The mathematical research institute was housed near it, before it moved to the main building. And the student union restaurant, before they built the new canteen. I have lived in this area of the town three times on my longer visits, after my studies in Poland and after my divorce from the Swissess, Ruth. I completed the revised version of my Ph.D. thesis in a cellar-turned-apartment, in the basement of a fancy villa on Haldeneggsteig, below the tracks of the Rigibahn. Mother had hoped that I would return to her apartment after my separation from Ruth. But I didn't. I had to breathe my own air. During my first crisis separation from Irith I spent a sabbatical in Zurich, living at Winterthurerstrasse, in the apartment of a study colleague, a Greek, who is now professor at Brookline College and in Athens. The same apartment, still owned by the Greek, was my home last winter during my second sabbatical. During these stays Dénes' memories and mine were always intermingled. My Zurich is in the Enge, on the lakeshore.

Dénes' student jokes remained with me.

How do you make brombeere. You take a brombeere (rasberry) and bury it in the earth. It becomes an earthbeere (strawberry) and the brom is set free. Chemist's humour based on German puns.

Or this one: Always keep your used streetcar ticket (they were rather big then, made of paper, not cardboard). It might turn useful. You might find yourself in a public toilet without toilet paper. Then you fold the ticket twice, tear off the center and unfold it. But keep the tiny bit. The ticket now has a whole. Put your fingers through and clean your ass. The tiny bit serves you well in cleaning your fingernails.

Not a shocker for the parents, when told at the dinner table. The parents had seen worse during the war, in the camps, during the siege of Berlin and Budapest. But still, not to be told at the dinner table, or when told, it was commented ironically, *mais pas à la table !* But for Hanni it was, a shocker I mean.. I once used the word bullshit during a dinner in Toms River, Marika

was there, too. Hanni made a scandal, it ended in a big quarrel between Dénes, Hanni and Marika. You might remember it. Christmas 1973.

9

I have a letter from Sandor to Denes, written in Berlin on June, 1, 1945.

My dear son Denes,

I have to assume that you did not receive the letters which I had written in December 1944 and January 1945. But I hope that the Red Cross informed you that I had been deported from Budapest to Berlin by the Gestapo. Here I was freed by the Red Army, I am in good condition and healthy. I have overcome these fifteen months of arrest both physically and mentally and I hope I am now able to start a new life after my return to my home town, although in a more reasonable way. I am leaving Berlin on Saturday, June 2 for Prague from where I hope to get a direct connection to Budapest.

Although I am a free man for quite a while, I don't feel like this, my mood is heavy and will be until I will have met dear Mummy and dear Marika healthy. I try to hope that I will meet them all well at home and that I won't suffer unpleasant surprises. Obviously I am very eager to learn about you, whether you have received your Doctorate degree yet and how you, my dear child, have overcome these difficult times. I was well informed about your fate till October 1944 and I hope that you have overcome also the months after that without worries and anguish. However it may be, whether you got your degree or not, you must by all means stay in Switzerland till the situation clears up, or rather till I order you back. My dear child, you must continue to exert manly patience and control yourself. Don't get overcome by sentimentalisms and don't act without thought. Obviously I will look around after my return to see what, under the changed circumstances, is advisable for you. I will look for an occasion to inform you as soon as possible, and if there is an opportunity to travel, I will visit you in Zurich.

To write to you in detail about my imprisonment is not appropriate but I will tell you everything in great detail upon our first encounter. I know quite well that for you those 15 months were equally hard and that you proved yourself in a manly way. Not only did you pass your diploma examinations with great success, you also worked on your dissertation. These achievements have contributed much to my ability to live through my imprisonment unbroken. I found consolation in the fact that I have an independent son who, if fate had wanted it otherwise, could prove himself without fatherly support

and could also support our dear Mother and Marika. God's grace granted me that I was spared such catastrophic strikes of fate and I dare to hope that I will meet all of them at home happy and healthy.

Once more, I admonish you to stay by all means in Zurich. I believe it won't create difficulties for you, and that you can support yourself in one way or another. I don't have to assure you that I am longing to embrace you after these heavy strikes of fate. If I have to refrain from it, I have my good reasons. I wish you well and hope to find news of you in Budapest which will contribute to the improvement of my mood. I embrace and kiss you in my thoughts Your loving father.

On June, 8, 1945 Sandor stayed at the Grand Hotel Steiner in Prague. I found a draft for a telegram from Prague to Zurich:

Survived my emprisonment by the GESTAPO fortunately. Healthy in transit towards home stop hear mother is well stop do stay in Zurich under all circumstances till I call you home. Kisses. Deutsch

Probably it was sent.

On June, 22, 1945 the Association of Victims of Fascism issued a document (in Russian and Hungarian) for Sandor, which was meant to facilitate resumption of normal life. On June, 27, HUNGARIA reinstated him as chief executive. He had been arrested as such 15 months before.

10

Here is my reconstruction of these 15 months. It is based on family documents in my possession, vague memories of family saga and published history texts. My memories of the war letters were right and wrong. By matching the private material against history texts, the former gain colour and meaning. The Deutsch family made it into the history books only in footnotes, barely more. Sandor would have liked it, if his rôle in the industrialization of Middle Europe had become the topic of a monograph. He dreamed of being knighted by the Hungarian Crown, becoming a Baron, like his rôle models a generation before: The Weizs-Chorin family, the Lang family, the Deutsch-Hatvany family, the von Neumann family. Louise nényi once told me, that when Sandor had built his villa in Lendvay utca, a place was planned for the family court of arms, just in case. But under Horthy jews were not knighted anymore. Lajos Lang was head of the British-Hungarian bank, member of the Hungarian Upper House and Sandor's only intimate male friend. Judith Lang, the daughter of Lajos Lang was an intimate school friend of Marika. One of the daughters Deutsch Hatvany was chosen as a candidate for a wife of Dénes. Dénes told me himself

with humourous disgust. John von Neumann, the mathematician, found himself aged one in Louise nényi's arms.

Sandor was the leading mover in the development of Hungaries chemical industries. I have two versions of his curriculum vitae, one written in 1951, for the Swiss authorities, when he asked for a residence permit. One in 1958, one year before his death, possibly again for the Swiss authorities, asking for citizenship, but I don't know for sure. The are very similar in spirit, but differ in details. His political involvement is minimized, three political periods are brushed under the carpet: The period of the Hungarian Soviet under Bela Kun (1919) and the following White Terror. The German occupation of Hungary and his relationship with the occupiers and the Hungarian liberals. Finally his attempts in shaping the future of Hungary after the war. He presents himself as a caring experienced industrialist with social values, who cared for his workers and employees like a father for his children. This is what he writes:

I passed my matriculation exam (Oberrealschule) in Pressburg (Bratislava) after which I took preparatory courses for the university entrance examination at the Academy of Commerce in Vienna and simultaneously followed courses at the Law School of Pressburg University. I did not complete my legal studies, but instead I accepted in 1907 a position at the Austrian Länder Bank in Vienna. The said institution soon transferred me to Budapest, because I was fluent in Hungarian, where I was representative of my bank at the Glue Cartell Office. I worked in this position till 1911, when I left to become an independent entrepreneur. I asked my father for my inheritance part and founded with further family help in Budapest a bone processing factory. Later I transformed this factory into a public company with the name PATRIA, Company for Bone Processing and Artificial Fertilizer AG with paid capital of 2.5 Mio. Goldcrowns. I was the majority shareholder of this company with 60% of the shares. The other 40% were owned inparts by leading members of the Budapest meet industry (Fleischhauer und Selcher), who also provided the needed raw materials, and by the British-Hungarian Bank in Budapest. In 1917 I acquired the majority of the 60 year old First Pezster Spodium and Glue Factory, whith paid capital of 3.6 Mio. Goldcrowns. This company played a leading rloe in the international glue business.

Spodium is a raw material gained from bones and used for various chemical cleaning processes. Needless to say, that all this bone crunching used animal material which were the side products of meet production. Both factories were polluting the air considerably and the plant in Budapest was proverbial for its stench. We interrupt here his exposition, which resumes with facts from 1920. The time from 191q8-1920 was very turbulent in Hungary.

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In 1918 some Nàndor Kozma published a book in Budapest with the title *The War Millionaires*. It contains a preface by Károly Huszàr, member of parliament. The book is a moral outcry against the few who collected the riches during the war while the masses were bleeding and starving. No direct accusation of war mongering is stated, the bare fact, that some people had it good is already considered a scandal. It calls for punishment of the millionaires and confiscation of their property, so that it could be distributed to the starving majority which survived. The book lists 26 drastic examples, short demagogic chapters describing how the millionaire got rich and full of hate and envy. The first described is 'Canon King' Baron Manfred Weizs. Sándor Deutsch, the 'Bone Cruncher' comes as the twenty fifth. In the conclusions of the book reference is made to a court case where judge Dr. Kálmán Kiczko describes the image of Hungary after the war:

Today in H. there are two camps, one is the camp of the honest hard-working people, the other the camp of the selfish and exploiters. Just take a stroll in Budapest's entertainment district and you will see those who are spending generously dishonest war revenues. Between these two camps a fight is going on, but those who became rich during the war are the powerful. The state, now, is not present in this fight: It cynically supported the Empire of Selfishness while the people were suffering. The Warmillionaires, like many cases have clearly shown, were hiding their revenues and the governments never seriously looked for these hidden fortunes although they should have done so and redistributed the wealth.

Further on, Dr. Istvan Ostwald (official title) is quoted

...

from the war nobody should have any gains, and if the sacrifices cannot be equally distributed at least the easy millions should be, so that daily bread should be available to every one on the home front.

From October 1918 till

The family saga has it that in this period, Sándor, aged 32, went into hiding and was, in absentia, sentenced to death. Whether this sentence was a court sentence of the people's tribunal under Bela Kun, or just the call of the mob, is unclear, I did not check.

In 1920 these two companies were fused and became its chief executive (Generaldirektor). I would like to stress that this position was not given to me as the majority shareholder, but imposed on me by the minority shareholders due to my success in the development of our enterprises.

11

March 19, 1944: The SS occupies Hungary. Sandor, Rozsi and Marika arrested. Also Marci Pick, Rozsi's brother. Hotel Majestic on Schwabenberg in Budapest becomes headquarter of the SS under Eichmann. Sandor and Marci are held by the SD (Security Service, similar to the CIA). Its headquarters were also on Schwabenberg, in the Hotel Mirabel. SD commander was Otto Klages. Marika and Rozsi are held in the internement camp Kistarcsa, near Budapest. Later Marci is released from the SD and also interned in Kistarcsa.

Kistarcsa was already an internement camp since 1942. Originally unwanted foreigners and political prisoners were held there by the Horthy regime. The Germans transformed it immediately into an internement camp for more or less prominent jews. Marika's fiance Feri was also there with his family, and many of Rozsi's social circles.

SS Hauptsturmfuehrer Otto Klages was directly reporting to Himmler and actually was supervising Eichmann's activities. He was in conflict with Canaris' efforts to save Germany from the ultimate disaster. He was later involved in the well documented Jews-for-trucks deal, whose seriousness was never tested. But two sample trains of jews finally reached Switzerland in this context. Head of the SS division for procurement of equipment was Obersturmbandfuehrer Kurt Becher. Originally, he was to acquisition horses and other military equipment. Later, in June, he arranged the (in)-famous deal between Himmler and the family of Baron M. Weiss and the banker Franz Chorin, upon which forty members of these families were allowed to emigrate to Switzerland and Portugal with money and all by special train in return for the steel factories and whate else. This allowed the Germans to control steel and arms production in Hungary, very much to the displeasure of the Hungarians. From June on Becher and Klages were involved in various schemes of disinformation which included saving certain jews for money and/or transfer of knowledge and technology. But back to the sequence of events:

April 28, 1944: First train leaves Kistarcsa for Auschwitz.

Marika and Rozsi are in Kistarcsa.

May 9–13, 1944: Sandor's scarce calendar entries note meetings with Benes (president of HUNGARIA), Asvany (director [of HUNGARIA ?]), Rohle (?) and others.

May 12, 1944: Sandor is allowed to search for the original document of the Hero's Chapter in his villa at Lendvai utca.

May 16–19, 1944: Sandor's calendar entries note three times S.

May 21–June 3, 1944: Sandor's calendar entries are very dense, but mostly illisible.

Kastner, a member of the Zionist Va'adah (Committee to save jews), negotiates with

June 3, 1944: Eichmann stops first sample train from leaving Klausenburg in Transylvania.

June 4, 1944: Klages intervenes and Himmler orders Eichmann to send the first sample train to Budapest for further preparation.

Kitty Gottesman, a very good school friend of Marika, (her maiden name escapes me) is on this train. She had left Budapest before her matriculation exam to get married very young in Klausenburg.

June 6, 1944: The allied forces land in Normandy.

June 9, 1944: Sandor for interrogation in Fö utca prison.

June 10, 1944: First sample train with 388 jews arrives in Kistarcsa.

June 20, 1944: Becher's first contact with Kastner, the main jewish protagonist in the Jews-for-trucks deal.

Sandor's first letter to Kistarcsa.

My dear !

I can inform you that I was transferred into a special camp (Sonderlager), where I will be much better and where I will enjoy more freedom including the possibility for intellectual activity. - Since the fifth week after my arrest I have received regularly parcels with alimentation and clothing, which will be also possible at the new place. Yesterday it was exactly three months that I am separated from my only beloved wife, and unfortunately, I am still without any news from you. Only through the offices of HUNGARIA do I hear that you are, as circomstances permit, relatively well, and that you receive regularly clothing, food and money. In my enormous worry about you this is my only consolation, that you do not suffer too much and that you are, God be thanked for it, in good health, and in good spirits. As I hear, it is possible to write letters from Kistarcsa once a week. I ask you therefore to write to me as detailed as permitted. I will also be permitted to write to you regularly.

Dear Rozsi, what are you doing all these days long ? How are you, dear Marika, spending your time ? If it is permitted, arrange to

be brought some books and prepare for the final university exam (Rigorosum). I assume that you do not make it difficult for dear mother and that you have reached finally the conviction that parents do have more experience and mean it well for their children.

Do you meet Marci ? Send him my greetings and kisses. I hope he is in better condition than during the time when he was jarrested; with me.

I assure you that I am in excellent condition and I hope to hear, as soon as possible the same from you. I embrace you in my thoughts, and kiss you again and again. Your always loving and caring

Sandor

Your letters should be addressed to:
;different hand writing;
S. Deutsch, Befehlshaber d. Sicherheitspolizei, Abt. VI.

June 30, 1944: *Sample train leaves Budapest with 1700 jews.*
Kitty Gottesman is on this train.

July 2, 1944: Sandor allowed to search for documents in his villa at Lendvay utca. First letter from Rozsi and Marika in Kistarcsa to Sandor.

XXXXX

to be completed

So far, over 400'000 jews have been deported from Hungary.

July 8, 1944: *Sample train arrives in Bergen-Belsen.*

July 8-14, 1944: *Eichmann supports attempt of coup d'etat of the Hungarian Police under Statesecretaries Baky and Endre against Horthy. Horthy uses his army and fires Baky and Endre.*

July 14, 1944: *Helped by the Hungarian Police, Eichmann, in an effort to show who commands, orders 1450 internees of Kistarcsa to be deported to Auschwitz. Horthy prevents this transport by his army, and returns them to Kistarcsa.*

July 19, 1944: *Eichmann succeeds in his second attempt to deport 1450 jews from Kistarcsa to Auschwitz.*

July 20, 1944: *Stauffenberg's attempt to kill Hitler fails. Himmler (as we now know) knew about the plans, but did not prevent them. Lendvai utca villa plundered*

date inexact, but
July

July 26, 1944: *Himmler orders immediate cessation of deportations of jews from Hungary and allows a first sample train from Bergen-Belsen to continue to Switzerland.*

July 28, 1944: *Letter of Sandor to the commander of the SD [Klages]: Asking to meet his lawyers Dr. Toth and Dr. Kovacs concerning the document of the Hero's Chapter.*

August 4–7, 1944: *Marika in Fő utca prison. Meets Hana Szemes. Beginning and end of imprisonment marked in Sandor's calendar with 'Marika'. Did Sandor meet her there ?*

August 10, 1944: *Letter of Sandor to the commander of the SD [Klages]:*

I am currently working on the problem how to increase the Hungarian production of iron. One of my proposals concerns the exploitation of the [Flotationsabbaende] which contain gold, which are produced at HUNGARIA. Still during my time as the manager of the above enterprise I have ordered a pilot procedure, where this method could yield simultaneously gold. But before I can complete my proposals, I should have knowledge about the current status, respectively success, of the pilot project.

I ask you humbly, for this purpose, to allow me to meet director Benes jr. for consultation.

August 19, 1944: *Sandor meets Benes jr.*

August 21, 1944: *First sample train with 318 jews arrives in Switzerland. Denes receives letter in Zurich from a friend in Montreux reporting on the arrival of this train. The friend had met somebody from the train who had met Kitty Gottesmann and Marika in Kistarcsa.*

August 21–23, 1944: *Letter from Sandor to Marika in Hungarian:*

Enclosed two checks, one over 5'000 Pengő and one over 1'000 Pengő. Detailed instructions to Marika how to cash them and avoid possible problems.

Got permission to write to Denes, copy inclosed, please read it and then pass it to mother, if censorship allows it.

Difficult communication with Mr. Dara on the issues of freeing mother and on the Csillag issue. Confirms receipt of letter from August 17.

Not clear yet, whether permission of your visit planned today will

be issued. If not, please tell our lawyer Dr. Kovacs to settle the property exemption and the find the original of the Certificate of the Hero's Chapter.

This Swedish business is not really helpful [the Wallenberg passes], but prepare the necessary steps nevertheless.

Don't be afraid of deportation it won't happen [to us]. Only if military reasons should require evacuation of the jews from Budapest, we would be interned in Balaton !

Inquires about living conditions. If we don't meet, do write as usual and in great detail. Don't trust even [our driver] Kuppai.

Love, etc..

August 25, 1944: *Letter from Sandor to Marika in Hungarian:*

Have received letter and thanks for arranging things swiftly. Received also letter from dear mother. She is very worried. There are many rumours, which, by now, are not founded anymore. The situation has changed dramatically. I don't know what will happen, but what is sure, it will not last more than 6-8 more weeks and we have to remain strong in these times.

Re: the Swedish issue. I am not sure we have enough time, there is not much value in it, unless we can use it immediately, as it only helps against deportation, which is getting less and less probable. Continue working with dear mother on the 'forward' matter. I will choose definitely soon, maybe during this next meeting. For details talk to the Fischmanns.

Re: Csillag issue: Mr. Dara told me on Wednesday, there are difficulties. He still tries, I should be patient. Go and live with the Ungar family till things are arranged. Because, if there are troubles, he [Dara] will protect you Mr. and Ms. Ungar together with you.

Concerning your new idea, I want to talk to Dara and hear his opinion and then decide. Today he didn't come, so it has to wait till the next meeting.

Re: The Governor's Exemption. This not a very meaningful idea, as it takes time to arrange, and till we succeed it won't be actual anymore. But if Dr. Kovacs can arrange it quickly, then, according to dear mother, it is very interesting. In that case, initiate it immediately. I enclose the notes you wanted.

Re: The parcel. I have received it last week. Thanks. Why do you send so much meat ? It spoils, already yesterday I had to throw away the veal, it smelled. Please refrain, it's a pity for the money and the effort. Even dear mother wrote that you exaggerate in these matters.

Re: dear mother. I nag Dara but no results yet, only this: If there

are deportations, you and mother will be brought here. I hope it wont come to this.

*Personal matters: Please change the suit you brought, it is two sizes too small. I'll bring it next time. [More request on underwear, etc...]
Love, kisses, etc*

August 30, 1944: *Himmler orders Eichmann to leave Budapest.*

September 11, 1944: *Denes sends postcard to Rozsi (c/o Guth family).*

[In Hungarian] He confirms receipt of letter from Marika. Has finished his Diploma of Chemistry at the ETH with an average of 5 (good). Started to work on Ph.D., as father required. He hopes father is content. Looked for work with the GEISTLICH company [a business partner of HUNGARIA] but was refused. Swiss Visa for father ready. Visa for mother and Marika should be ready in a week. He is missing his parents, five years of separation, etc... He prays to God, etc, seemingly with success. The family can count on their son, etc. Hopes to reunite before Christmas, and never separate again from mother. Love, kisses, etc

September 22, 1944: *Sandor again in the Fő utca prison. Swedish Consulate issues Schutzpass for Sandor (No 6250), Rozsi (No 6251) and Marika (No 6250).*

September 25, 1944: *Prime minister Géza Lakatos' office issues Governor's Exemption from the Anti Jewish Laws for Sandor, Rozsi, Marika and Denes.*

September 27, 1944: *Rozsi freed from Kistarcsa.*

October 14, 1944: *Horthy announces Hungaries cessation of hostilities and neutrality. Szalasi succeeds in coup d'etat against Horthy and the Cross Arrow Party takes formally control.*

October 15–16, 1944: *Sandor at SS headquarters on Schwabenberg (calendar entry).*

October 17, 1944: *Szalasi calls Eichmann back to Budapest.*

October 20, 1944: *Sandor's calender mentions Lanzendorf [internement camp near Vienna].*

October 22, 1944: *Swedish Consulate reconfirms Schutzpass issues from September (signed in form of a stamp: Wallenberg)*

October 23, 1944: *Swiss Consulate confirms existence of collective visa for Switzerland for Sandor, Rozsi and Marika.*

October 30–November 20, 1944: *Sandor in internement camp Oberlenzendorf near Vienna.*

November 8, 1944: *Letter from Swiss Consulate confirming existence of individual visa for Sandor and extending its validity till December 20, 1944.*

There is an undated document of the Swiss Consulate guaranteeing Rozsi and Marika shelter in one of the houses under the protectorate of the Swiss Consulate.

November 15, 1944: *Rozsi baptized roman catholic*

November 15, 1944: *Decree for creation of Ghetto in Budapest.*

December 4, 1944: *Swiss Consulate confirms existence of collective visa for Switzerland (signed in handwriting: Lutz)*

December 4–18, 1944: *Ghetto secured from destruction by the Cross Arrow Movement.*

December 7, 1944: *Second sample train from Bergen–Belsen arrives in Switzerland with 1368 jews.*

December 18, 1944: *Eichmann leaves Budapest.*

December 23, 1944: *Becher leaves Budapest. The Red Army encircles Budapest.*

January 16– February 13, 1945: *Battle for Budapest. Wallenberg disappears.*

January–April, 1945: *Becher, authorized by Himmler, hands various concentration camps over to the Red Army.*

April 15, 1945: *Red Army approaches Berlin. Hitler revokes Becher's authorization and orders all inmates of concentration camps killed before camp is handed over.*

April 15–30, 1945: *Becher continues and saves 110'000 inmates in Mauthausen.*

April 23, 1945: *Berlin falls.*

May 9, 1945: *Unconditional capitulation of Germany.*

May 20, 1945: *Sandor freed in Berlin.*

My Grandfather

Sun Nov 27 16:51:37 IST 1994

*Dear Andrea, Adam and Sasha,
these are notes I made in preparation for a more sophisticated text. I thought they are interesting by themselves. It seems that Sandor was in 1939 very much concerned with his family tree, but contrary to other people, in its jewish past. There is a letter from Arpad, Adam's grand father, to Sandor, giving hints and pointers. The line of documents of Anna (Netti) Rosenbaum–Weldler contains some contradictions, but is basically confirmed in Arpad's letter.*

Enjoy it, as I did, it is a fascinating puzzle.

Janos

12 Sandor Deutsch, Family tree

12.1 Great–Grandparents

1. *Hanni Weldler,*
2. *Herschel Weldler, born in St. Georgen 1781
Documents: Birth certificate for Hirschel Wüldler*
3. *Josef Rosenbaum, born in Teleki 1788, died in Brezov 29.5.1863.
Rabbi of Brezov 1832–1863
Documents: Death certificate from 1939, signed Marek Haberfeld, Rabbi*

12.2 Grandparents

1. *Josef Deutsch, buried in Cseste*
2. *XXX, buried in Cseste*
3. *Anna (Netti) Rosenbaum–Weldler, born in St. Georgen (Sv.Jus, Slovakia)
1816, died in Trnava 1912.
Documents:
Birth certificate
Death certificate*
4. *Moritz Rosenbaum, born in Izsak (Hungary) 1827 and died in Trnava
1915.
Cantor in Trnava.
Documents:
Marriage certificate: Married to Anna Schay, widow, 28.8.1850
Page of passport from 1895 (trip to US)
Death certificate: profession "sukromnik"*

12.3 Parents

1. *David Deutsch, born in Pudmeric 1840, died in Trnava 20.11.1911*
Documents:
Document from Pudmeric, referring to 1868-1870
Marriage contract, Vienna 29.3.1875
Trnava citizenship awarded 27.6.1879
Death certificate
2. *Bertha (Elisabeth) Deutsch-Rosenbaum, born 10.9.1894 in Trnava, died 22.9.1919 in Trnava*
Documents:
Birth certificate: Mother Netti Bral (?) Death certificate

12.4 Brothers and Sisters

1. *Hermine, born in Trnava 1875, died in Zurich 1955.*
Married to Moritz Östereicher (1879-1956) in Vienna, later New York and Zurich.
Children: Jacques and Otto
Living descendants: Alex Beutler, son of Otto, and XXX, son of Jacques.
2. *Karl, born Trnava 1878, died 1936 in Trnava*
Married to Frieda Deutsch-Milch, deported by the Germans.
Children: Nusi, Suzi and Tibor (S. and T. dported by the Germans)
Living descendants: Nusi Lager-Deutsch (in Bratislava), her son Karl Lager (in Freiburg, Germany) and his daughter Sasha Lager (in Bratislava).
3. *Sandor, born in Trnava 1887, died in Zurich 1959.*
Married to Rozsi Deutsch-Pick.
Documents:
Birth certificate: several versions Marriage certificate: 19.4.1919
Blood certificate: A+ Death certificate: 16.5.1959
4. *Arpad, born in Trnava 1890, died in Prague 1939 (suicide)*
Married to Elisabeth Deutsch-Rosenfeld, who died in 197x in Bratislava.
Children: Erich Dolc (Deutsch) 1920-1993, Peter Deutsch, born in 192x is alive in Japan.
Erich has a daughter, Eva Henrici-Dolc, living in Hamburg.
Peter has, from first marriage a son, Adam Deutsch, and a daughter Beverly Deutsch, both living in Toronto. He has a daughter from his second marriage, Marika Deutsch.
Adam is married to Sonhi Kim and they have a son, Raphael Deutsch.
5. *Käthe, born xxx, married to some Fürst.*

6. *Stefi, born xxxx , married to some David.
Children: Valy (USA, died in 199x) and Bruno (died in Australia). Bruno had children.*
7. *Jacques ..., seemingly emigrated to the US before World War I.*

12.5 Half-Brothers and Sisters

David Deutsch was married before. He was a cohen, so the second marriage seemed to create some problems.

1. *Eugenie XXX-Deutsch*
2. *Joseph Deutsch.
Children: Rozsi Kovacs-Denes (lives in Budapest) and Dene Darvey (Deutsch), who emigrated to Australia. His son, Norman Darvey lives in Camden Australia.*
3. *Hermann Deutsch*
4. *Bertha Engel-Deutsch
Son: Oskar Engel, emigrated to Haifa, Israel in the 1930/40.
Children: Harry and Charley Engel.*
5. *Regine Weiss-Deutsch. Emigrated in 1939 with children and their families to Australia.
Children: Alexander J. White and Käthe Neumann-Weiss.*

12.6 Wife's family

*Rozsi Deutsch-Pick, born 2.2.1891 in Budapest, died 1.2.1959 in Zurich.
Documents: Birth certificate, marriage certificate, death certificate*

Parents and uncle

- *Lazar Pick, born 1860*
- *Johanna Pick-Uffenheimer, born 1866*
- *Marcell Pick, brother of Lazar, emigrated to the US and died in Ohio in 1951. His wife died there in 1955. There is a hint that their son, Emerich, lived then in Los Angeles.*

Brothers and Sisters

- *Marcel Pick, born 1886 in Budapest, died 1962 in Zurich.*

- *Rudolf Pick, born and died 1987.*
- *Rozsi Pick, born 1891 in Budapest, died 1959 in Zurich*
- *unnamed, born and died 1891.*
- *Alexander (Sanyi) Pick, born 1898 in Budapest, died 1980 in Auckland, New Zealand.*

Grandparents

- *Moritz Pick and Julia Feigelstock.*
- *Samuel Uffenheimer and Maria Fried*

12.7 Children

1. *Denes, born 21.5.1921, Budapest*
2. *Marika, born 14.1.0.1923, Budapest*

13 Sandor Deutsch, Curriculum Vitae

The following is based on two CV's written in 1951 and 1958 resp. It is augmented with data gathered from family documents and history books. One has to bear in mind that the two CV's were written for the Swiss Authorities in connection with applications for residence and citizenship.

1887: *Born in Trnava, see family tree.*

1893-1897: *Jewish primary school, Trnava (Document)*

1900: *Bar Mitzwa (no record)*

I passed my matriculation exam (Oberrealschule) in Pressburg (Bratislava) after which I took preparatory courses for the university entrance examination at the Academy of Commerce in Vienna and simultaneously followed courses at the Law School of Pressburg University.

1905-1906: *Wiener Handelsakademie, Akademiestrasse 12, Wien 1. Completed successfully the Matriculation course. Lived from 29.11.1905-15.8.1906 at: Althanplatz 3, Wien 9.*

I did not complete my legal studies, but instead I accepted in 1907 a position at the Austrian Länder Bank in Vienna. The said institution soon transferred me to Budapest, because I was fluent in Hungarian, where I was representative of my bank at the Glue Cartell Office. I worked in this position till 1911, when I left to become an independent entrepreneur. I asked my father for my inheritance part and founded with further family help in Budapest a bone processing factory.

1911: *David Deutsch, Sandor's father dies.*

1912: *Netti Deutsch, Sandor's grandmother, dies.*

Later I transformed this factory into a public company with the name PATRIA, Company for Bone Processing and Artificial Fertilizer AG with paid capital of 2.5 Mio. Goldcrowns. I was the majority shareholder of this company with 60% of the shares. The other 40% were owned in parts by leading members of the Budapest meat industry (Fleischhauer und Selcher), who also provided the needed raw materials, and by the British-Hungarian Bank in Budapest. In 1917 I acquired the majority of the 60 year old First Pezster Spodium

and Glue Factory, with paid capital of 3.6 Mio. Goldcrowns. This company played a leading rôle in the international glue business.

Besides my industrial activities I also acquired great experience in agriculture. In 1916 I bought in Trnava, my birth place, an estate of 2'000 Joch (ca. 900 hectares). After World War I augmented the model farm with a corn starch factory.

In spite of my Hungarian citizenship I was also in Czechoslovakia a dominant entrepreneurial figure. The authorities tried hard to convince me, in view of my birth place, to opt for Czechoslovak citizenship.

1914-1918: *World War I. Collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Budapest surpasses Vienna as a center of industrial activity.*

1918: *November 3, Cease fire treaty between the Monarchy and the Entente.*

November 16, Proclamation of the Hungarian Republic.

November 16, Foundation of the Hungarian Communist Party.

November 30, Foundation of the counter revolutionary force "Ungarischer Landwehrverein".

November-December, reformist government under Karolyi. December, Entente allows Czech and Rumanian Army to pass the demarcation lines.

1918: *Kozma Nandor publishes the book "The Warmillionaires", in which he calls for nationalization and redistribution of the holdings of the 26 most prominent millionaires, among which Sandor Deutsch, the "Bone Cruncher". The book has a preface by the later prime minister Karoly Huszar, and refers to a trials against war profiteurs. Its tone is social-moralist demagogic.*

1919: *March 21, Proclamation of the Hungarian Soviet Republic under Bela Kun after severe unrest of peasants and workers leading to the occupation of estates and factories.*

March 26, nationalization of all big factories, mines and banks.

March 29, nationalization of all institutions of elementary and higher education.

April 3, nationalization of all middle sized and large estates in Hungary.

April 7-10, elections to the Soviets.

April 13, formation of counter revolutionar committee under count Bethlen.

1919: *Marriage to Rozsi Pick (April), see family tree.*

Villa in Lendvay utca. 16, Budapest under construction.

Bertha Deutsch, Sandor's mother, dies

1919: *May 5, formation of counter revolutionary government in Arad (Transylvania) under count Karoly.*

August 1, Collapse of the Hungarian Soviet Republic under Bela Kun. Period of White Terror, where communists and jews were killed indiscriminately.

November 16, Horthy's triumphal entry into Budapest.

November 25, "Concentration government" under K. Huzsar, formed under British mediation of George Clark.

1920: *January, Parliamentary elections in Hungary.*

March, Horthy elected Regent of the Kingdom of Hungary.

September, Numerus clausus (minority quota) at the universities. About 25% percent of the students were jewish, but only 6% jewish students are now allowed inscription at the universities.

1920: *Census of 1920: Sandor and Rozsi Deutsch have domicile in Trnava, Zbozna-Str. 21, of German Nationality.*

In 1920 these two companies were fusioned and became its chief executive (Generaldirektor). I would like to stress that this position was not given to me as the majority shareholder, but imposed on me by the minority shareholders due to my success in the development of our enterprises. The development of the company after the fusion was fast. We founded a new factory for glue and artificial fertilizers in Lipto, St. Mikulas (Czechoslovakia), and we acquired a substantial share of the companay "Marasesti" in Bukarest (Factory for Sulfuric acid, copper vitriol, artificial fertilizers, glue and other chemicals), with a paid capital of 100 Mio. Lei. I reorganized and enlarged this company in cooperation with its French partners, the Banque l'Union Parisienne. I was the delegate of the administrative council. Furthermore, I founded in Budapest the leather factory "Pannonia" and in Rotterdam the "Holland-East Europe Commerce Matschapai" with two subsidiaries in Vienna.

Due to my successes in the Middle European great industries I became a force to be reckoned with and I enjoyed great influence in the formation of a Middle European chemical industry.

1921: *May 21, Denes Deutsch born in Budapest. (Document)*

1922: *May-June, Parliamentary elections.*

1923: *January, Hungary joins the League of Nations.*

1923: *October 14, Marika Deutsch born.*

1924: *July, Begin of economic stabilization. Hungary receives international loan, backed by the League of Nations.*

1922-1927 *Appointed for five years member of the "Ungarische Handels-Statistische Wertfestsetzungskommission" with title "Handelsrat".*

In 1928, due to my successes in Middle European chemical industry, the Auzsiger Verein, administered by the Austrian and Czech banks, the former Bodenkredit-Anstalt, Vienna and the Ziwostenka Bank, Prague, fused its daughter company HUNGARIA with my Spodium Works. The resulting company had a paid capital of 10.6 Mio Pengö, and I received for my contribution in the fusion 25% of the new shares. I was first nominated Vice-General-Director, and in 1930 I was nominated General-Director, a position I kept till my resignation in 1947.

Also in 1928, I liquidated my agricultural possessions in Czechoslovakia. I sold my starch factory to an American company, I had to leave half the estate to the Czech state in taxes, but the other half I sold.

1928: *Arpad Deutsch becomes director of the starch factory. He was also involved in the enterprise before, and had led it into disaster, according to Nusi. Karl and Sandor had to help in the rescue operation, which led to the liquidation of the Trnava enterprise.*

1930: *Census: Arpad Deutsch, born 16.5.1890 in Trnava and Elisabeth Deutsch-Rosenfeld, born 26.5.1899 in Nitra, domiciled in Bratislava, Dostojewski-Lände 29 b, declared themselves of German Nationality. (Document)*

1930: *October, Foundation of the Small Holders Party under Balint Szijj and Zoltan Tildy.*

1931: *June, Financial crisis in Hungary. Sandor Deutsch loses much money but recovers quickly. The family saga speaks of losses in gambling. The family jewels were sold through the services of Moritz Östereicher, the husband of Sandor's sister, Hermine Deutsch. The affair leaves Sandor and Moritz estranged till after the war. The conflict extends to Moritz' and Hermine's son, Otto, also a jeweler.*

1934: *February, German–Hungarian Economic Cooperation Treaty. Diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union.*

March, Protocol of Rome concerning cooperation between Hungary, Austria and Germany.

1935: *March, Parliamentary elections.*

1936: *Sandor Deutsch acquires the estate and land around the two villages Palotas and Hehalom, near Hatvany, ca. 1000 Joch (450 hectares). It has an important production of sugar beets, a sugar refinery and a factory for drying vegetables.*

From the profits of the liquidation of my estate and starch factory, I bought later an estate in Hungary. I made it into a model farm of intensive productivity. I had stables with 200 milk cows, I was rearing annually 1000 pigs, and I was breeding horses. Additionally I run a factory for drying vegetables.

1939: *March 15, Germany occupies Bohemia in Czechoslovakia. Hungary occupies Karpato–Ukrainia.*

September 1, Germany attacks Poland, begin of World War II.

1939: *Sandor undertakes detailed investigation into his family's history. Arpad Deutsch commits suicide. According to the family saga, he lived with a lover in Prague, and, offered an emigration visa to the US by his employer, could not make up his mind between wife and lover. Both women survive the war. Denes meets the lover in 1944 in Switzerland by chance.*

June 10, Denes Deutsch passes matriculation examination. In this period he is also baptized Protestant (Calvinist), as he went to a Protestant school.

September, Marika in Switzerland is evacuated back to Hungary. Denes, Rozsi and Sandor all abroad but return to Hungary.

Sandor Deutsch obtains certificate of the Budapest Chapter of Heroes (of the counter revolution of 1919–1920). It attests that he was involved in the struggle, had risked his life for it and was emprisoned. This document is to play a decisive rôle in saving the family from deportation in 1944.

1940: *February 2, Denes Deutsch begins his studies of Chemistry at the ETH in Zurich. But for a short visit in 1968 (?), he will never return to Hungary.*

The Heroic document is translated into German at the Hungarian Consulate in Zurich.

1940-1942: *Sandor Deutsch appointed for two years member of the "Ungarische Handels–Statistische Wertfestsetzungskommission" with title "Handelssrat".*

1940: *August, Second Arbitration of Vienna: North Transylvania returns to Hungary.*

In agreement with all the interested parties, I had reorganized HUNGARIA and extended its chemical involvement. The developments under my leadership were particularly successful. In 1941, the Phönix-Works in Negybanya (Transylvania, now Rumania) are incorporated into HUNGARIA. Phönix had a leading rôle in Rumania, as Chemical Factories and Iron Works. At the same occasion HUNGARIA also incorporated Metallochemia, Budapest, in which she had owned a stake. I also founded in 1940, together with Pester Ungarische Kommerzialbank, the first Hungarian factory for synthetic silk.

1941: *June, Marika Deutsch passes matriculation examination.
September, Marika begins her studies in agriculture and animal husbandry.*

1941: *June 22, Germany attacks the Soviet Union.
June 27, Hungary declares war to the Soviet Union.*

1943: *September, Secret negotiations of Hungary with the Western Powers.*

HUNGARIA, under my leadership, was thriving. In 1944, they employed 7'000 workers and 300 employees, among them 15 directors and 10 procurists. It was the biggest and leading concern in the sector of chemistry, with considerable importance for Europe as a whole. Besides the seven factories, metal works and mines in Hungary, we had in Rumania five more factories, in Yugoslavia two and in Czechoslovakia also two. Besides that, we had lead and zink mines in Bulgaria. Our internation activities had brought us a considerable reputation and we enjoyed international trust, and I can say, that it was mostly my making.

1944: *February 1, Marika Deutsch baptized Roman Catholic in preparation of marriage with Feri. (Document)*

1944: *March 17, Horthy visits Hitler in Klessheim.
March 19, German troupes occupy HUNGary.*

1944: *Marika's wedding with Feri planned for end of March.
March 19, Sandor, Rozsi, Marika Deutsch, Marci Pick and Feri arrested.*

In 1944, I was arrested and then deported by the GESTAPO, to be precise from March 23, 1944 till the beginning of June 1945.

1944: *March 22–August 24, government of Döme Sztójáy, fascist.*
May–July, deportation of the jews in the provinces.
August 29–October 15, government Géza Lakatos, liberal.
August 30, Himmler orders Eichmann to leave Budapest.
October 11, Soviet troup reach German border.
October 15–16, Horthy declares Hungary neutral. Coup of the Cross Arrow movement. Horthy appoints Szalasi prime minister.
October 17, Szalasi calls Eichmann back to Budapest.

1944: *May 12, Sandor is allowed to search for the original document of the Hero's Chapter in his villa at Lendvai utca.*
May, Marika suffers from lung disease (after the war recognized as TB).
June 9, Sandor for interrogation in Fö utca prison.
June 20–October, correspondence between Sandor and his women, all under arrest. Sandor in contact with, and still acting chief executive of, HUNGARIA. Sandor also in contact with Obersturmbandfuehrer Kurt Becher.
July 2, So far, over 400'000 jews have been deported from Hungary.
Lendvai utca villa plundered after failed coup against Hitler in Germany by Count Staufenberg.
August 4–7, Marika Deutsch interned in Fö utca prison, meets Hana Szenes.
August 7, Marika Deutsch freed in Budapest.
August 10, Letter of Sandor to the commander of the SD [Klages], informing him about his current industrial projects and asking for a meeting with the president of HUNGARIA, which is granted ten days later.
August 20, Sandor gets permission of the SS to write to Denes in Switzerland. Sandor writes to Rozsi, still interned in Kistarcsa, assuring her that there is no danger of deportation for her and Marika.
September 25, prime minister G. Lakatos' office issues document for Marika, Denes, Sandor and Rozsi, asserting their special status as Hungarian jews exempt of the most severe anti-jewish laws. The Heroic document had served its purpose, but nor for long.
September 27, Rozsi Deutsch freed in Budapest.
October 22–23, Swedish Consulate reconfirms Schutzpass issues from September (signed in form of a stamp: Wallenberg) Swiss Consulate confirms existence of collective visa for Switzerland for Sandor, Rozsi and Marika.
October 25, Marika Deutsch assumes false identity of Helen Pecs, born 1920, Red Cross Nurse, with complete set of papers of parents and grandparents.
October 30–November 20, Sandor Deutsch interned in Oberlencendorf, near Vienna.
November 15, Rozsi Deutsch baptized Roman Catholic.
November 21, Sandor Deutsch deported to Berlin. There he works in an internement camp for economically and scientifically important people, mostly jews, on projects related to the economic recovery of Germany after the war (sic !).

1945: *January–February, battle for the liberation of Budapest.
April 23, liberation of Berlin.
May 9, Capitulation of Germany.*

1945: *March 13, Marika Deutsch resumes formally her identity, after being Helen Pecs.
May, Sandor Deutsch freed in Berlin.
June 27, Sandor Deutsch resumes his position at HUNGARIA.
Sandor Deutsch supports the Small Holders Party financially, and befriends Antal, father of J. Antal, prime minister of Hungary in 1991.*

1946: *February 1, proclamation of the Hungarian Republic under Zoltan Tildy from the Small Holders Party as president.*

1946: *April–July, Marika Deutsch enrolled to study law in Geneva. She is pregnant (Andras Majtenyi) and has an abortion in Switzerland, financed by Piszta Rath and Andras. Her parents do not know.
October 21, Denes Deutsch completes Ph.D. (Dr.tech.) in chemistry at ETH Zurich.
Sandor Deutsch testifies, among many, at the trial of Kurt Becher in Nürnberg. Becher is found not guilty of any Nazi crimes. He was involved in saving Sandor Deutsch and his direct family.
December 19, Marika Deutsch marries Andras Majtenyi (Markovits), Secretary of Foreign Trade. Witnesses: Josef Benes, President of HUNGARIA and Franz Csont, important figure in the Communist Party, later executed during the purges of 1950. Before that Andras is baptized Roman Catholic.*

The war damages at HUNGARIA were very big, but were repaired already in 1946. Due to the changed political situation, HUNGARIA had to be reorganized, a task which I, unfortunately, could not complete, due to the nationalization program of the government.

My farm and estate was requisitioned during the Russian occupation and turned into a veterinary hospital for horses. During the German occupation all the life stock was requisitioned. A commission had estimated the damage created by the Germans at 1.8 Mio Pengö (ca. 1.08 Mio Sfr. in 1951) and promised to pay, but the sum is not to be paid due to the stipulations of the peace treaty.

1947: *Denes Deutsch assumes position at General Aniline and Film Corporation in Linden, New Jersey.
December 4, Sandor Deutsch receives residence permit in Geneva, valid till September 30, 1948.*

1947: *November 29, Nationalization of the big banks. Jenő Markovits, my grandfather, was in charge of this nationalization plan.*

1948: *January 24, Hungarian–Rumanian treaty on friendship, cooperation and mutual help. Andras Majtenyi, Secretary of Foreign Trade, my father, was instrumental in the preparation of this treaty.*

1948: *March 12, Janos Andras György Majtenyi–Deutsch born in Budapest. April, I am baptized Roman Catholic. Sandor has an offer to become head of the chemical industries in India, founded by the tycoon Tata. He starts to learn English. Rozsi vetoes this plan.*

1948: *March 25, Nationalization of all enterprises with more than 100 employees or workers. Jenő Markovits, my grandfather, was in charge of this nationalization plan.*

At the end of 1947, I was forced by political reasons to leave Hungary, and I resigned as chief executive of HUNGARIA. Since February 2, 1948, I live in Switzerland, where I am a partner in a small chemical enterprise.

1949: *February, Sandor Deutsch and A.H. Meyer found Rhein–Chemie AG, a small chemical factory in Kaiser–Augst near Basel. Sandor holds 50% of the shares.*

February 28, Divorce of Marika Majtenyi–Deutsch from Andras Majtenyi.

April 30, Rozsi arrives in Switzerland.

June 2, Marika and I arrive in Switzerland.

November 10, Denes Deutsch and Johanna Stoeckli get married in New York City.

1950: *Marika has plans of emigration to US or Canada. Sandor considers emigration to Argentina.*

1951: *February 10, Andrew Charles Deutsch, son of Denes and Hanni, born. Dies the same year.*

June 28, Governement of Kanton Zurich rejects appeal concerning denial of residence permit in Kanton Zurich for Sandor and Rozsi Deutsch and Marika and Janos Majteny. Sandor is fined 40.- SFR., and this fine will later lead to the refusal of the Swiss Social Security Insurance, to return the money paid by Sandor.

Marika has residence permit in Kanton Aargau, valid till August 31, 1951.

August 10, Marika Majtenyi–Deutsch marries Gabriel Makowsky and becomes a Swiss citizen. (Document)

1952: *Sandor Deutsch and Gabriel Makowsky are involved selling copper illegally to Czechoslovakia, in contravention of the embargo imposed by the Western powers as a result of the Cold War. They make a fortune. Sandor tries to recover some of his property in Hungary and Czechoslovakia. He fails.*

1954: *Gabriel Makowsky is in serious financial troubles and Sandor has to bail him out.*

1956: *December 6, Andrea Deutsch born.*

1957: *G. Makowsky insists on the circumcision of Janos Makowsky, to whom he had given his name.*

Denes, Hanni and Andrea move to Zurich. Denes works in his father's company, the Rhein-Chemie. Andrea baptized Roman Catholic in Zurich, Liebfrauen Kirche.

Marlen Makowsky, daughter of G. Makowsky from first marriage, emigrates to Israel, Kibbutz Bar Am.

1958: *February 2, Gabriel Makowsky commits suicide.*

Gerda Makowsky, daughter of G. Makowsky from first marriage, emigrates to Israel, Kibbutz Tel Amal (today: Nir David).

Denes leaves the Rhein-Chemie after severe differences with his father. He joins CIBA in Basel.

1959: *February 1, Rozsi Deutsch dies of liver cancer.*

July, Sandor Deutsch dies after complications of an operation.

Marika and Denes have serious differences concerning the inheritance, which evaporates even further because of this.

My Father

Andras Majtenyi

1924 February 2, Born in Oradea (Rumania).

Parents

Father: *Jacob Marcovics, born 1899 in Nagyvarad, Hungary, bank clerk, jewish*

Mother: *Petronela (Nelly) Braun, born 1902, jewish*

Jacob Marcovics became Eugene (Jenö) Markovits and joined the Hungarian Communist Party in 1919 and stayed a member, even after it became illegal. After the Trianon Treaty, Nagyvarad became again Oradea (Rumania) and in 1940 it returned to Hungary. At this time Markovits was a member of the illegal anti-fascist cell, working under the command of J. Kadar and G. Peter. He was arrested in 1943 and set free in July 1944. After Szalasi's coup he went into hiding with his son in a mental hospital, where his wife worked as a nurse. From 1945–1948, J. Kadar was head of the Communist Party of greater Budapest, Z. Vas was Budapest's maire, and Markovits belonged to their closest circle.

Curriculum vitae

This was written in February 1957, for the French Police.

I was born on February 2, 1924, in Nagyvarad (Transylvania), Rumanian province till 1940, then Hungarian till 1944, then again Rumanian.

My father was a bank clerk, and later founded his own business in textile en gros.

I did my first studies in Nagyvarad in a Rumanian school, but in 1938 my father enrolled me, aged 14, in the Lycée Louis-le-Grand [in Paris]. The outbreak of the war interrupted my stay in France, and I continued my studies in Rumanian Transylvania, which later became Hungarian.

I was expelled from the school in 1942, two weeks before the matriculation exam, due to the anti-nazi propaganda, in which I was involved with four of my class mates, within a literary circle. One year later, the ministry of National Education gave us nevertheless the permit to present ourselves to the examination.

Nevertheless, the university remained closed for me. I decided therefore, to become a press photographer and I worked as such for more than two years for several papers, local and national (Friss Ujsag, Estilap and Nagyvárad).

From 1941 on, my father and I were part of an anti-fascist resistance network which was involved in distributing propoganda material and was running an underground newspaper. In 1943 my father was arrested, and in 1944 it was my turn. Nevertheless, the change of government (the government Sztojai was replaced by a more liberal government, which prepared peace with the Allied Forces) led to the liberation of many prisoners.

Our network remained activ till the liberation of our country [Hungary] and we were in direct contact with J. Kadar and G. Peter, members of the clandestine Central Committee of the Hungarian Communist Party.

At the liberation the few members of the Hungarian Resistance were lead to form the new cadres of the new administration. I followed my superiors of the resistance to the political police of the government of Miklos Bela. I was appointed lieutenant. I also enrolled simultaneously at the school of Foreign Affaires, and from 1946 on, I worked at the ministry of External Commerce.

My father became in this period vice-president, and later General Director, of the Central Bank, and in 1948 General Director of the State Monopolies. After my arrest in 1953 he was deposed and nominated Director of the Textile (en gros) Enterprises.

At the Ministry of External Commerce, I was occupied with the relations between Hungary and France and Rumania. In 1946 and 1947 I was sent to Bucarest for the preparation of the commercial treaties and to protect the Hungarian interests in the Hungarian owned companies in Rumania.

In 1946, a married Marianne Deutsch, daughter of an industrialist in chemical products, but in 1949 we got divorced, and my wife and my son established themeselves in Zurich (Mythenquai 22).

I worked till 1952 in exterior commerce, where I was mainly involved with the exportation of textile materials (mostly draperies and filts). In this capacity, I had contacts with foreign traders and journalists, like, for example, the head of the A.F.P. René Blanchier. I became therefore supsect to the political police, especially after 1952. When the crisis struck foreign trade, the government repositioned its cadres and I became administrator in an explosive factory.

In 1953, the political police arrested me under the accusation of espionage and I was sentenced to 12 years of prison. Due to the

political detente, I was in jail for only 2 1/2 years, till August 30, 1955, where I was provisorically set free. After my liberation I could only find employment in a subaltern position at the commercial section of the Minerlas Trust.

On November 29, 1956, I passed the Austrian frontier clandestinely and asked for asylum. Then I contacted the French Embassy in Vienna, which gave me the permission to leave for France.

I would like to precise that, besides Hungarian and French, I also speak fluently the languages German and Rumanian.

*Signed: February 1957, Andre Majtenyi, 153 rue Gabriel Péri, Bicêtre,
Tel: ITA(lie) 1588*

1945: *The family saga reports: In 1945 at then famous cabaret singer and dancer, Anna Kellyi, was arrested and charged of collaboration with the Nazis. In the same year, Andras arranged for her liberation and took her as a lover for while, a story, which captured the imagination of Budapest at the time.*

1946: *The family saga reports: In 1946 (?) there was a shooting incident, involving the head of British Security at the Allied Control Council and Andras. It erupted in a night club in a quarel about a woman, and nobody was hurt. But it lead to considerable diplomatic commotions.*

In 1987 I met some I. Egri, who told the following: He had known Andras Majtenyi back in 1945-46. Andras was boasting about his possession of weapons. He was also claiming that he was part of a secret commando of four preparing the abduction from Germany of Szalasi, with the purpose to bring him before a people's tribunal. In the end the abduction did not take place, as the Americans extradited Szalasi to Hungary, where he was sentenced to death by a People's Tribunal and executed.

December, Marika Deutsch and Andras Majtenyi get married.

1947: *Jenő Markovits told me in 1969: He was appointed head of the Central Bank. He planned to sell some of Hungary's gold reserves on the world market for the financing of necessary investments in Hungary's infrastructure. The governement opposed this plan, and he was then transferred the head the Hungarian Mortgage Bank and was member of the planning committee preparing the nationalizations.*

Andras takes part in the mobilization of the workers of HUNGARIA leading to demonstrations and strikes calling for nationalization.

1948: *January 24, Signing of the Hungarian-Rumanian treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual help. Photograph of Andras Majtenyi at the ceremony,*

*Marika takes part in the following receptions.
March 12, Janos Majtemyi born.
August, Kadar becomes Interior Minister.
November, Andras and Marika Majtenyi divorce.*

1949: *February, Andras denounces Marika for trying to emigrate illegally. G. Peter deals with the case personally, confronts Andras and Marika, and realises that it is a family conflict. "Children, sort it out between yourself!"
April, Rozsi Deutsch emigrates to Switzerland.
June, Janos and Marika emigrate to Switzerland. Passionate correspondence (hundreds of letters) between Marika and Andras, lasting till April 1951.
July, Andras helps Sandor Pick, Marika's uncle, to emigrate illegally to Austria.
Jenő Markovits becomes director general of MONIMPEX.
Andras works for Hungarian Soviet Trade (KABEL and XXX).*

1950: *Andras works for Hungarian Foreign Trading N.E.
Jenő Markovits as head of a trade delegation in Switzerland. Receives permission to visit Janos and Marika.*

1951: *Spring, Kadar arrested.*

1952: *July, Andras marries a gymnastic teacher (name not in family documents).
December, G. Peter arrested. Peter was jewish, and since 1946 head of the political police AVO. Rakosi initiates purges, following Stalin's doctor's trial.*

1953: *February, Andras arrested and detained in Vaci prison.
March, Jenő Markovits transferred from MONIMPEX to Textile en gros.
May, elections to the general assembly.
June 27-28, Meeting of the Central Committee. Exposure of mistakes in the past and their reasons (Stalinism). Decision on the new General Line of the Party.
July, Meeting of the newly elected general assembly.*

1954: *February, Andras sentenced to 12 years of prison.
May 24-30, Third Party Congress.
October 23-24, Foundation of the Patriotic Popular Front.
November 28, Elections to the Soviets.*

1955: *April 14, Meeting of the Central Committee, Imre Nagy expelled from Politbureau and Central Committee and all his party functions.
May, Warsaw Pact formally formed.*

The Hardliners retake control.

August, Andras set free again. Rumor has it, that he remarried his former wife, the gymnastic teacher (unconfirmed).

1956: *July 18–21, Meeting of the Central Committee. M. Rakosi deposed as First Secretary and expelled from Politbureau.*

October 23–November 4, Gouvernement Imre Nagy, Soviet Intervention. November, Andras passes illegally the Austro–Hungarian border. Rumors have it that he was sent abroad as an agent.

1957: *I meet my father, after my stepfather told me, that he was not my father.*

1958: *February, my stepfather, G. Makowsky commits suicide.*

1959: *Andras marries Nicole.*

1964: *Nelly Markovits dies of liver cancer in Paris.*

1965: *Jenő Markovits publishes his book on fashion in Budapest. The book is followed by a public discussion reflected in the newspapers and leads to a reform of the Hungarian Fashion Industry.*

1966: *Andras divorces Nicole.*

1967: *Andras marries Lily, his last wife.*

1968: *Andras becomes French Citizen. At this occasion the following annexé to his CV was submitted:*

I have mentionned in my demande of naturalization that the Special Council of the Tribunal in Budapest had sentenced me on February 12, 1954 to 12 years of prison, and I would like to add some remarks to this:

I was arrested by the agents of security on February 11, 1953, and after a year of secret preventive detention I was accused of crimes against state security and of spying for the benefit of Western Powers and helping people secretely fleeing the country.

In an appeal, this sentence was reduced to four years, but due to the political changes after Stalin's death, the political trials were revised, and I was liberated on August 31, 1955, after 2 1/2 years of detention.

It is clear, that all this was a political trial, typical for totalitarian regimes.

My father told me:

1971: *September, Andras, who was refused a visa to Hungary, since he had left illegally (?), receives finally, under direct intervention of J. Kadar, permission to visit his dying father.*

September 21, Jenő Markovics dies in Budapest. The Party (or Andras ?) pays for a burial place for 50 years. In the newspaper Magyar Hírlap a short obituary appears, stressing that he was director general of MONIMPEX and ...

September 22, Andras is called for special interrogation to the head quarters of the political police.

1977: *April, Andras Majtenyi dies of heart failure. His body is given to the anatomic institute for scientific purposes. His widow, Lily Dukerque has mass read for him.*