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**L. E. HUDEC, B. A.**  
(HUNGARIAN)  
ARCHITECT  
SHANGHAI

MEMORANDUM

SHANGHAI, April 20th 1945  
TO **Dr. Jánossy István (HUNGARIAN)**  
**BUDAPEST Fehérsajo ucca 8**  
~~HUNGARY - EUROPE~~

Dear Sister,

Anxious to receive detailed news from all members of our family. State in reply condition of your home, also Apáti and Szirák. Szirák is very close to my heart would like to save it.

Here everything all right we are all well.

With love

your loving brother

*Loni*

P.O.Box 534  
SHANGHAI (CHINA)

Shanghai, September 29th 1945

My dear Jolán and Pista,

This is the first letter written since the return of the peace. We have been prepared here for street fighting and the town has been bombed continuously and if the Japanese would not have been forced by the entry of Russia in the war and by the atomic bomb, we would not be escaped Budapest's fate. The town is not yet occupied but we are expecting the entries of the Chinese and American forces. Only an American Military Commission is here.

I am sending this letter by the first mail which was made possible. I am expecting a detailed reply from you, telling me all of your experiences and above all, whether everybody is alive in our family. During the critical days when Hungary went through the war, I was following your fate day by day with great anxiety. I knew that you have been in Szirák, and also I knew that there has been heavy fighting around and in Szirák. What happened with Edith in Vác and with Livi and their families? I have seen the news reel film of Budapest in the Russian Club here and so we have now an idea on what you went through. It must have been a terrible experience. I hope only that everybody is safe and alive.

It may interest you to know that on October 18th as I heard that the Regent has been forcibly removed I have wired to the Hungarian Minister Végh in Tokyo requesting him to nominate someone to whom I can hand over the Consulate as I refused to be in service of an unconstituenell puppet Government set up by Hitler. This was a very risky step to take, as the Japanese occupation forces in Shanghai may have put the whole Hungarian colony in concentration camp and myself under arrest considering us as traitors, same as they did with a part of the Italian colony, but it had to be done, as my conscience told me that that is the only right way. The Minister's reply was that he is in full agreement with me and that he brought it to the notice of the Chinese and Japanese Foreign Offices that he as well as myself are refusing the acceptance of the new Government and refusing obedience. The Minister also wired to Budapest and brought the above to the knowledge of the Szállasy Government also that we both refuse to acknowledge them.

The Japanese occupation authorities seemingly have not been informed by the Japanese Foreign Office and they let me unmolested and so I kept the Consulate open until May 18th of this year, since then I am carrying on the work as the Chairman of the Hungarian Community representing their interests. What the future will bring I do not know, I only know that I will try to fulfil my duties and protect the Hungarian community in China which was committed to my care as Consul for Hungary for entire China.

As there is no Russian Consulate in Shanghai, I cannot ask for news from home through them, I have requested our Minister in Tokyo to wire to Budapest with the assistance of the Russian Embassy in Tokyo that the Hungarian colonies in China are all well and safe, further I have asked that same shall be published in all Hungarian papers. Whether this has been done I do not know as we are not in touch now with our Legation. The entire Hungarian community is standing behind me and approved my steps in October with the exception of a few ill-guided persons. I was always informed about the world events through my short wave sets, which I alone as a Consul was able to keep. We have been entirely cut off from the world and left at pray with the German and Japanese war propaganda.

Since March last year I followed with great anxiety the trend of events in Hungary and I was at that time already contemplating to take the same step as I did in October, but I was tied down to my duties, which I could not relinquish and leave the community to it's fate. As soon as the Russian Consulate is established here, I will establish relationship with them in order that we may receive some news with their help. At present there is only the official Tass News Agency in Shanghai, with whose members many of our colony are on best terms.

It is clear to me that the policy of Kossuth, that is close cooperation with the Slavicals will be realised. The Hungarians wedged in between north and south Slavic nations are bound to come to terms even at great sacrifices with them. How great even these sacrifices look now, they will be entirely rewarded in later generation. We must closely cooperate with them and thereby saving our national unity and the future of the nation.

Shanghai, September 20th 1945

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Dear Pista, as soon as you can write, please inform me about your views. As you know, we have been fully cut off from the Hungarian internal news from 1941. You must take us as we would be on an Island and the news which I have received through shortwave about Hungary's internal affairs have been nought. We are specially interested in the real story how Hungary was dragged in this war. Whether possibly could it have been avoided even under the existing heavy German pressure and if so who has been the culprit; what are the causes of Teleki's death etc.

I firmly believe that in our history this tragedy is not bigger than any national tragedies which happened in the past and we can survive it if we unite and everyone of us will work according to his best ability on the reconstruction. No idle rich or speculators have place in our future country. I would be very much interested also to know about the real economic conditions of Hungary and also whether our family suffered personally a loss of their home or property. Did Apáti or Szirák escape? I believe Apáti is within the size which does not fall under the new land-laws but Szirák is different and I know you did your best to save of it as much as possible and legally admissible. I have read in the local Russian papers about the new land-laws, but unfortunately it was not the full text, so I do not know whether can we keep it at all as it has been bought after 1939 or whether it falls in the circumference that around Budapest only 50 acres (hold) can be kept or whether can we keep the maximum 100 acres or whether you could apply the paragraph by which we could keep 200 acres for the services rendered by me for the Hungarian cause here in the Far East.

I understand that this only applies to the arable land, the wood and inner land are free. The new land-laws do not state what recompensation will be paid for laws taken over.

Now a few lines of our family. As I wrote you in Red Cross letters, my father-in-law died in 1941. otherwise we are all well, notwithstanding the harassing experiences we had here. My wifes aunt, Mrs. A. Denegri, British subject, just came out from the Japanese concentration camp and is staying with us. Martin and Theo are the last 2 years students of the local French University. They would like to go back to Canada to the University in Vancouver and I do not object to their wish. Alessa is staying with us, she is a big girl of 17 and helps her mother in the household. She has inherited Father's love to the horses and to the life in the farm. Perhaps it will be she who would take Theo's place at Szirák if anything is left. She may marry a brave Hungarian landman. - Gisella is well and she worked very hard during the war. As to myself I got a little bit thinner, otherwise I am well, with careful life my stomach ulcer has not come back.

With reference to my activities as Consul I have taken a very independent stand in many questions where alone my conscience has guided me and not only the paragraphs, for instance in the Jewish question, disapproving the persecutions of them. Notwithstanding the great German pressure exercised in this line on me, I maintained an independent attitude all the time. I kept my Jewish secretary Mrs. Sarolta Dawid for the last 5 year who is a native of Budapest. Please search after her family. Her sister: Mrs. Eva Reiner (nee Weissler) was employed with the Pesti Magyar Kereskedelmi Bank. And also my chancellor of the Consulate was of Jewish origin Mr. C. L. Szalay, who has been a great help to me, his halfsister Szalay Erzsébet was in the Magyar Glasz Bank in Budapest, please search after her too. I have saved from the interment in the ghetto about 12 persons, former Hungarian subjects, whom I have accorded protection and fought it out with the Japanese military authorities. I never let the Nazi party functioners here to interfere with Hungarian affairs, what of course led some times to unpleasant repercussions. A very anxious time we passed when Russia declared war on Japan and the prominent local Russians have been arrested and put in the famous "Bridge-House", where Japanese gendarms tortured their prisoners; I learned after the Japanese surrender that myself and 3 other Hungarians were scheduled to be arrested, if the capitulation of Japan would not have prevented it.

I am glad that the war is over and that the terroristic atmosphere is finished and we can breathe freely. I do not know whether the new

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Government will entrust me to continue my work, if so I will do it, but first I want to return to home even for a short rest as soon as possible, after these tiring days.

With anxiety waiting for news from you, I am sending you many kisses with love

Your brother

*Lando*