

The letter is most clumsily composed by a third rate man and certainly to compromise me here in this Country and I am sorry to say this crime till now has succeeded. It is so stupidly done, that I can only wonder that any sane and honest man can take it seriously.

I look upon this, what my first impression was, as a common Police trap and it is confirmed by the following statements which I enclose, it is a written statement by my wife:-

All suspicions which I cast last evening on Hungarians abroad, I gave up altogether and came to the following conclusion.

Mr. Hankinson, who felt himself very much hurt because after knowing him better, I refused to receive him in my house and at his last visit personally stated that he has a friend in Scotland Yard who is a Unitarian. Once I received a letter signed a "well wisher" written on a "Liberal Club" paper in which I was abused in the most criminal way - A young Hungarian architect who was detained here and later interned (cannot remember his name) his wife and child deported - this man lived with Hankinson; he constantly tried to come to me. I saw him once in my Studio and twice in the Lounge of my house, as he wanted me to see drawings of his. I did not like the man because expressed very extreme Socialistic views. He was jealous of Mr. de Weress because he became a friend of mine. So it happened that as I did not like both these men, I did not want to receive them. At the last visit the Hungarian asked me, if I had received a threatening letter by which he gave the show away and confirmed my first impression, that it came from Hankinson. I told him I sent the

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letter to Scotland Yard - He became visibly serious after this.

The next thing was when we were at Datchet, I, received a letter from Hankinson asking me again to support a Hungarian destitute woman. I refused to do so as I already had helped this woman at his very request. In this letter was enclosed a printed pamphlet - by a Unitarian Clergyman - A Pacifist paper - It expressed very strong views. I was astonished why he sent me this pamphlet without any remark and when I refused to help his protege and at the same time, asked him what he meant by the enclosed pamphlet. To this I received no reply.

Shortly afterwards the Police when taking away my correspondence, took away this pamphlet. At one of my examinations under Mr. Basil Thomson, I observed this pamphlet on the table and at once gave him an explanation how it came to me. He put it aside and made no remark. I am sure this pamphlet on thinking over it now, was meant as a trap for Scotland Yard to hear my views.

Hankinson showed himself very hostile and had ample opportunity to hear about my career through the Hungarian who lived with him Mr. de Weress my friend, also lived with Hankinson and was obliged to leave him, as he became so hostile towards him, since we made a friend of him (Weress) and refused to receive Hankinson and his other Hungarian Protege.

As a native Hungarian, I can state that the letter was of a very low character, spiteful and an extreme Socialist.

I have come to the conclusion that the letter was fabricated with the help of Hankinson to whom I am sure I stated, I get letters from my people through my Dutch

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freinds, Incannot see it otherwise.

P.A.de Laszio

London

1919 June 12.

13/6/19

Fos. 10

RE DE LASZLO.

LETTER of 14th June 1917 produced by TREASURY and MR. DE LASZLO'S COMMENTS THEREON.

A LETTER 14th June 1917.

MR. DE LASZLO'S COMMENTS.

After reading through this incriminating letter, I am more than ever convinced, that the first impression which I received when this letter was read to me by Basil Thomson, that it is a very clumsily made up at Scotland Yard; and as long as they are not going to convince me by facts of the contrary, I stick to my assertions. I will try to justify my assertions as follows:

Dear Friend, your kind letter of May 30 reached me as well as your most interesting information. Many thanks for your friendly attentions. Where are the days when we were both bursting with youth? But now for serious matters.

1. At the beginning of the letter he says that he thanks for my letter of May 30th 1917. As you know I had no opportunity to send letters abroad through the Dutch Legation, except from the end of 1915 till August 3rd 1916. After that all letters went by open post, as well as those before the end of 1915.

I forwarded to the Legation your request to be allowed to resume your Hungarian Nationality. I have no doubt but that it will be granted; you have rendered such important services to the Monarchy that you have earned a favour of this kind.

With this letter you will receive documents relating to the treatment of German prisoners in France. Do what is necessary to make the revolting facts known in Society, at Court and in intellectual circles.

II. In group point II. the very word "Monarchy" is entirely an English expression - An Austria subject would say "for Austria-Hungary"; a Hungarian subject would say only "for Hungary".

III. It never occurred to me to think of German prisoners in France and what interest have I at all as a native Hungarian towards German Prisoners, the more so, as I officially expressed by disapproval of the Lusitania outrage and Luvain in '15 at the Mansion House. / How little interest the Hungarians showed towards Austria and Germany, that the Hungarians were the first to declare themselves an independent Republic and declare themselves free from Germany. During the war no British subject has been molested in Hungary. Let them produce any person to whom I related of German prisoners in France.

Your report of ~~yesterday~~ confirms what I have said of you for a long time. You have in you the stuff of which diplomats, clever business men, and journalists are made. The report is of the highest importance, and gives a splendid picture of the true situation in England.

I have only one thing to ask you. Don't mention Madame G. in your letters any more.

There is a highly placed personage who cannot forgive her for being the wife of an Ambassador, seeing that she was only a Jewess. Call on her frequently; what you get from her also is worth having.

IV. I never wrote on the situation of Britain a single word, to any person whatever, and it is ridiculous in his statement, that he says he received a report "of yesterday" in Switzerland.

V. Since the 12 years I live in England, I never visited any Embassy in London except a few times the Austro-Hungarian where there was no Ambassadors wife. I don't know any Ambassadors wife beginning with the letter G. except the former Serbian Ministers wife. Madade de Gruitch and Mr. and Mrs. Grenadius - I visited them once shortly before the war in connection with my journey in March to Athens - when invited to paint the Royal Family. I don't think she is a Jewess. So far as I remember, she came only once to my studio, either just before, or in the beginning of the war, when I understood her to be American by birth, and she wanted to write an article on my Art for America, I have never seen her again, and never visited them in

her house, I even don't know where they lived - nor have I noticed that she is a Jewess.

I have just received through our "Dutch friend", the attached Report drawn out by L. (A.O.), The Report is extremely valuable; in particular, it gives the exact dates of the losses of ships belonging to Great Britain, figures and statistics relative to the critical condition of the mining industry, and a true idea of the views held at Court.

L. attached to his Report a few lines for me. He begs me to ask the Authorities whether he cannot recover his Hungarian Nationality after the War. Please answer to me, as to this, and I will send it on to him.

I am contenting myself today with telling him that I will look after him, and with expressing my personal opinion that his request cannot but meet with a favourable reception, in view of the great services which he rendered us last year.

VI. As I already have stated I had no opportunities to send letters unsensored, only the short time between 15 and 16 and every letter which I have sent was sent open, which Mde. Reinsdyk read before she addressed them further.

VII. I never had any conversation with anyone about the King's ideas in this War, nor do I know them, nor had I any conversation on El^sace-Loreine, nor have I ever written a word on that subject.

VIII. I never wrote nor spoke to anyone that I want to recover my Hungarian Nationality, and how ridiculous it is and contradictory, since he mentions at the end of the letter that "his life was made impossible for him in Hungary". If that is the case, why should I want to recover my Hungarian Nationality?

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May I add, to give you the true perspective, that L. has already sent in nearly 40 Reports, which money will not pay for. L's success has been rapid; as a converted Jew he had the entree to Pope Leo the 13th's presence, and shortly afterwards to the German Court, and the British Court. Hence he has a number of enemies, who made life impossible for him in Hungary.

X. Literally "to give you your bearings".

Note.

In the original translation supplied by Mr. Branson to Mr. C. F. Gill K.C. the following paragraph appeared. This paragraph is not included in the translation annexed to the particulars of charges.

"If it is true and the authenticity of L's information cannot be doubted that the King is visibly and increasingly desirous of seeing the War at an end and that he has said apparently that Alsace Lorraine was not worth an hours prolongation

IX. It appears to me ridiculous that the writer gives an explanation to my native country of my origin and career as if I would be a stranger towards them. They know quite well my geneology and the stages of my career.

X. "Shortly afterwards" - Between painting the Pope and the German Emperor, 8½ years elapsed.

"I never had any conversation with any one about the King's ideas in this War nor do I know them nor had I any conversation on Alsace Lorraine nor have I even written a word on that subject to anybody".

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RE DE LASZLO.

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L E T T E R

14th June 1917 and MR. DE LASZLO'S
COMMENTS paragraph by paragraph.

~~Mr. C. J. Hill~~
Dr. J. Wylie

Charles Russell & Co.
37 Norfolk Street,
Strand, W.C. 2.
14.6.19.
Fos. 19