

8 August 1947

Dear Bob,

thank you very very much for your cable to home, and thank you for your letter to Munich which I got upon my return to this station day before yesterday.

Here is the situation: Miss Elisabeth Szinyei -Merse /Szinyei-Merse/ is an old friend of mine, from 1928 on when she was 3 years old, her family is in some way related to my family and besides of my parents I am not interested in anybody in Hungary. She is the bravest little girl I ever knew and I must help her. During the war 1944 she got in trouble because of one of our /My/ agents who knew her name. The man was arrested by the Gestapo and killed, beaten to death /Mr. Kovács/ and he revealed the name of Sissy Szinyei Merse. She was arrested too. This is the girl. I want to take her out together with my mother. This is now definitely cleared.

Before I left to Rome I sent another warning to her not to come because I am going to home and have to ~~be~~ undergo an operation. I do not know how she did not get this letter and she came. But Stepan was briefed by me how to treat her, what to do and apparently he did not behave the right way. When I got your cable in Rome I nearly jumped out through the clinic window I was so angry. I immediately I asked our people there /in Rome/ to ask you to send her to Salzburg or to Rome, I don't know whether you received this letter or not. Now I am completely out of touch with her.

I was and I am absolutely angry with S. and I do not want to see him and do not want even to hear about him. This man is a "Hosenscheisser". Ask your Austrian friends what does that mean. I did not send to S. anybody. I did not send ~~back~~ I asked them only for this one favor with Sissy. They had thousands of Shillings from me, they had hundreds of Dollars, many food and thousand of good pengoes from my mother. So I am fed up, I am not a sucker and not their uncle from the US. I was expecting full help as I did always when it was necessary. It is stupid when he says I should not write commercial cables. I know more about security than these Austrian dwarfs. After all he is my ~~xxxx~~ cousin and I can write letters and cables to my cousin. But they are always scared. My mother and father two old men they behave in Hungary as courageous brave persons should behave everywhere. Thus with this the whole S. question for me is closed "erledigt". By the way I did not ask this stupid S. to bother you too much, I wanted only if necessary a pass for Salzburg.

So here is what I most respectfully request, ask and demand from my friend of Lucca and other nice places:

1/ Enclosed a letter to Elisabeth Szinyei-Merse to Budapest, please do something to forward to her. I told her to try to get the Italian visa. But I rather am doubting whether she will get it. ~~K~~ I am wondering whether you could do for me a last wish, to get her and my mother out and take to Salzburg. Oliver is informed and will keep her both notify me and I take them over there. But I can not write to Sissy to come out from Budapest and contact this stupid S.

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thus I leave the letter to Bissy ooen. If you have any idea to put an address there please do so. If you have an other idea how you could help to get them out directly please do so and write it down, in the letter. I emphasize that this is my only wish and the most important for me. You see how the iron curtain works. And especially works for me, because I cannot write directly from here.

2/ The situation changed greatly since last year and my mother wants to come out too. Sissy knows whether she is ready or not. I would do that directly through somebody in the ACC or Legation but I do not know anybody.

I am very sorry to bother you, but I must. It is highly important. I will never forget it and you can count on me whatever you want at any time. I am sure you see my point and you will do what you can. But leave out this S. from the deal.

*John as ever  
Fred*