

Zsolt Aradi  
59 Park Avenue  
Bronxville N.Y.

*Sent back to Peter S. Stahl*  
September 30, 53.  
*John B. ...*

Dear Mr. Lang;

I had considerable fight with myself whether I should or not at all give an answer to that cable sent by Mr. Condon. I do not blame him, I simply can not get over such a vicious statement with which some one or more people from VOA Munich tried to block my employment by RFE. I am sorry to say, that Mr. Condon did not see through the well prepared intrigue. I am reluctant to speak, but I decided that I will expose, briefly the background and supply the truth.

The unidentified gentlemen from VOA Munich made some very unpleasant remarks about my writing ability and hinted that there were "circumstances" at my leaving Munich.

Any intelligent and educated Hungarian abroad and in Hungary knows my name. There are no Hungarian Encyclopedias ever since 1935 which did not write about me at least 15 lines. It is not a coincidence that priests still quote from my books from the pulpit, though I was not a religious writer, but with many other friends of mine we influenced the thoughts of a whole generation of Intellectuals. I guess that the remarks do come from Mr. Boros present head of the Hungarian Desk MRC. Mr. Boros

knows this very well. In 1948 when he was entrusted to become editor in chief of the Hungarian language newspaper in New York "Amerikai Magyar Népszava" he asked me immediately to be one of his principal collaborators. I happened to be in New York and consented, then I went to Rome, waiting for my appointment to the VOA and worked 5 months for Mr. Boros paper, and wrote, sometimes as many as 5 articles a day. But, when Mr. Boros became the chief of the Hungarian Desk MRC he apparently did not like my being second man there because, I assume, he suddenly became jealous. I know very well his roundabout intrigues ever since I arrived in Munich July 1952. Mr. Bery has been his, I hope not too willing, associate. I reserve to make statements how this intrigue has been carried out for a later date. It should suffice, that I did not pay any attention to it, for a while. But when it became absolutely evident I called the attention of Mr. Benedict Administrative Officer and Mr. D'Allessandro Director of MRC. After that we worked in peace with Mr. Boros, since he was the boss. It has been and it is a well known fact, that Mr. Boros considers the Hungarian show, his "own" and is extremely careful not to give credit to such people who could be potential competitors. I did not consider myself a competitor. I worked in New York peacefully and had a good record, and Mr. Erdos was not afraid to praise my work. Mr. Boros's fear comes apparently from the fact, that he has been editor in chief of a Budapest evening paper, similar to the Post, and had very limited contact with the large masses in Hungary. He became important when Mrs. Boros's father's money has been invested into the paper. I do not question Mr. Boros's journalistic abilities, but I am proud of my record. I started to work as a journalist when I was 17, with 19 I became the political secretary of a well known Hungarian politician statesman.

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In 1929 I was member of the editorial staff of one of the greatest Hungarian newspapers in Budapest, and ever since I was reporter, foreign editor, news editor, political editor, editorial writer on two other equally important Hungarian papers. In 1931 with two other men we founded a "progressive" /in European sense/ Catholic bi-monthly, then another bi-monthly and later a weekly. Most of the people who write or work for RFE in Munich, New York or else wrote for that paper. In 1935 we founded one of the greatest Hungarian Quarterlies. After my departure from Hungary my friends went on with it until the Nazis came, and after the War Mr. Juhasz /RFE Research/ became the editor. This reviews with the same name still exists in Hungary. In the meantime I finished my University studies on the U. of Budapest on the faculty of Law and Political science. In 1933 in addition to my other duties I was asked to be the editor in chief of the daily 5 language paper of the International Boy Scout Jamboree. / 500,000 circulation, 24 pages of which 12 pictures. / From 1936 on I was the head of the Foreign Press Department of the Preparatory Bureau of the Budapest Eucharistic Congress. The same year, because I have seen what is coming I left Hungary went to Rome and became Rome correspondent of 3 great Hungarian papers, and later on for a while of the greatest Lithuanian paper in Kaunas. Xiphond daily in German for this latter. / The Kallay Government, which worked to get out Hungary from the War appointed me to be Cultural attaché in Milan, and later on Cultural and Press attaché at the Hungarian Legation to the Holy See. I held this post until the Germans occupied Hungary and Kallay and Szegedy Maszak etc were arrested. Ever since 1934 I wrote several political books on the European situation, and on the Danubian question. I wrote several novels and published hundreds of articles. All these publications were very well received. I got criticism too, but who does not? My best criticism I got always from such great men in politics, literature or cultural life who never became Nazis or Communists. This was my record when I was asked to join AFQH, which turned out to be OSS. How well I worked is expressed in the fact that I stayed on until Marc 1948, and my visa was sponsored by the Organization and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Of course I did not work during the War in any journalistic or literary matter. And after the war I had to wait until Hungarian emigré papers were published. I did not ask them to accept my writing, they came to me. Thus I wrote them unpolitical articles which were generally liked. And when I arrived in this country for the second time, and already on the staff of VOA Longmans Publisher asked me to edit the papers of Cardinal Mindszenty, to provide the text with connecting links, and write a 25000 Introduction. The book " Cardinal Mindszenty speaks", 1949 came out under the pen name Akos Zombory, and has been serialized too. I used a penname because I was advised so by the Panel of the Dept of State. In 1951 I published another book " The Communist War on Religion", an unbiased factual report on the situation ~~in~~ in every country behind the Curtain, with historical and background material. This is the first book of its kind, and has been translated ~~in~~ into German and Spanish /Mexico/, and praised by Protestant Catholic and Jewish leaders. Since I was asked not to put on the book even my penname, the book came out under the name of Mr. Gary MacEoin who put it in proper English. In the meantime I worked at the Voice to the satisfaction of all concerned, and nobody had the silly idea to question my writing abilities, because I am a professional writer, journalist and editor. I have my own opinion and I stood up for it always, but I still managed to be respected by all political and cultural shades. If you ask responsible people and not grudging competitors who happen to be the former

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jealous boss, you will get an undistorted opinion. If you ask those people with whom I worked in that US Agency from 1944 to 1948, they will tell the truth too. And, summing up it is highly improbable that my character and writing ability should have dropped suddenly and at the moment when I arrived in Munich.

As far as that assertion concerns that there were circumstances at my leaving Munich, my answer is this. Mr. D'Alessandro was so pleased with my work that he decided that if the budget permits he will transfer me to Rome as a Special Events Officer for the whole MRC. For this reason to go prepare such an assignment, he ordered me to go back to New York via Rome, and entrusted me to negotiate with competent officials. Since I talked upon orders with at least 10, this can be proved at any time.

It is quite possible that some criminal minded or uninformated denounced

me for something. Anybody can be accused falsely. I did not commit anything, was not a Communist or Fascist, provide for my family and for my larger family, and I feel that I could do something for RFE. I came to this country not as a DP but from my own will. I wanted to come 1936 already, because I wanted to be free. I trust that this organization is composed by such free men, who can reduce to proper proportions the vicious statements of opportunists. And I have confidence in God, that these facts can show, that a man can not be judged upon dusty statements but only upon his life's work.

I apologize, but I am unable to rewrite this letter, and something went wrong with my typewriter. It is not proper to deliver it this way, but I run out of time.

Very sincerely yours