21. SCHÖN GYÖRGY KÁROLYI MIHÁLYHOZ

(Csungking, 1945. február 26.)

Dear Sir.

Because of my desire to return to Hungary as soon as possible, I am taking the liberty of writing to you with the hope that you will be able to advise me concerning the proper procedure.

I am a Hungarian citizen, 33 years of age and in possession of a Hungarian passport which expired in 1938. As a physician I served as Army Surgeon in the Spanish Republican Army 1937-39. Since then I have been working as a volunteer in the Chinese Red Cross. I went to Spain and came to China for political and humanitarian reasons.

Now that our country is being liberated from the Germans I should like to return home as soon as possible in order that I may take part in her reconstruction and fight for a strong, democratic and really independent Hungary which I hope will arise soon.

In the absence of any Hungarian Legation in China or of a legation which is representing Hungarian interests, I am unable to renew my passport and consequently to return home. I would be very grateful to your Excellency if I could have your advise concerning this matter.

Please excuse me that owing to censorship regulation I can not write you in Hungarian. My apologies for causing you this inconvenience.

With patriotic greetings respectfully yours¹

PIL 704. f. 81. ő. e. (eredeti)

Tisztelt uram,

Azért veszem magamnak a bátorságot, hogy írjak Önnek, mert amint lehetséges, szeretnék visszatérni Magyarországra és remélem, tanácsot kaphatok Öntől ennek megfelelő módjáról.

33 éves magyar állampolgár vagyok, és van egy 1938-ban lejárt magyar útlevelem. Mint orvos katonai sebészként szolgáltam a spanyol Köztársasági Hadseregben 1937-től 1939-ig. Azóta mint a Kínai Vöröskereszt önkéntes munkatársa dolgozom. Politikai és humanitárius szempontok vittek Spanyolországba és hoztak Kínába.

Most, hogy hazánk felszabadult a német uralom alól, szeretnék visszatérni Magyarországra, amint lehetséges, hogy részt vehessek az ország újjáépítésében, és harcolhassak azért az erős, demokratikus és valóban független Magyarországért, amely remélem, mielőbb létre fog jönni.

Mivel Kínában nincs magyar követség vagy bármiféle olyan követség, amely a magyar érdekeket képviselné, nem tudom érvényesíttetni útlevelemet, tehát haza sem térhetek. Nagyon hálás lennék, Excellenciás Uram, ha tanácsot tudna adni nekem ez ügyben.

Kérem, bocsásson meg nekem, hogy a cenzúra előírásai miatt nem írhatok magyarul.

Bocsánatot kérve alkalmatlankodásomért, hazafias üdvözlettel és tisztelettel¹

¹ Schön levelére Károlyi helyett Havas válaszolt 1945. július 25-én; ugyanazon a napon válaszolt egy másik távoli emigránsnak, Gombos Andor Ervinnek, aki Kamerunból panaszolta, hogy levelei a háború alatt nem jutottak el Károlyihoz.

22. KÁROLYI MIHÁLY EDUARD BENEŠHEZ

(London, 1945, február 28.)

My dear President

I hear that you are going back to your country. It will be a great day for you and for the Czechoslovak people. You and the Czechoslovak people have waited six long years for this day, the great day of joy. But at the same time a heavy burden is awaiting you: the rebuilding of your country. Still, I know, you will succeed doing all the necessary, in the spirit of your great friend, Thomas Masaryk. I wish with all my heart that for many years it will be you who will do this work of reconstruction. I wish this also for the Hungarian people who now freed by the Red Army are standing on a new course which will do away with the criminal hatred propaganda trying to hinder the friendly relations of our two countries. Small countries, like ours cannot live in a "splendid isolation". Only if we combine our forces with that of our neighbours can we have peace and ensure to our people freedom from want. Permanent economic and political democracy is only possible if the collaboration of our two countries will ever more deepened. I know that in a short time this cannot be achieved but only step by step. However, the foundation stones have to be laid down already now.

I fully understand, as you told to me over and over again that the Czechoslovaks can only trust Hungary if it has completely done away with certain slogans as the "St. Stephen idea". There is no doubt, Hungary has to become a republic, has to solve radically its land problem and purge herself from all pronazi and horthyte people. This is the pre-condition of a sincere rapprochement. On your side the same kind of fake nationalistic flag waving has to be combated, resulting from the Hungarian jingo propaganda. When in 1919 I was received by Czechoslovakia's great old man, he told me quite frankly how difficult it was for him to fight these very same influences.

I do not know if I will go back. It will depend first on the Hungarian people, secondly on the Allies. Anyhow I can assure you that as long as I live from home or from abroad I will keep on fighting for a deep and lasting alliance between Chechoslovakia, Tito's Yugoslavia and Hungary. I regard also Czechoslovakia as a bridge between Hungary and Soviet Russia.

To finish my letter let me ask you to help the Hungarian democracy in its endeavour to form a new Hungary and facilitate her difficult task as far as possible.

Yours very sincerely

Michael Károlyi

P. S. Please forgive the bad typing of this letter but my typewriter is out of order and nowadays it is extremely difficult to have it mend.

PIL 704. f. 129. ő. e. (másodpéldány). Fordítását közli: KMVÍ II. 177-178.

Kedves Elnököm.

Hallom, hogy visszatérni készül hazájába. Nagy nap lesz ez Önnek és a csehszlovák népnek. Ön és a csehszlovák nép hat hosszú évig vártak erre a napra, a nagy örömnap-