

Magyar Országos Levéltár (MOL) – Hungarian National Archive

KÜM TÜK 1984, IV. fej., ANGLIA, 30. doboz

**6-13 0080/18 Lázár elvtárs és M. Thatcher négyszemközti tárgyalásai – Tête-à-tête
conversations of Comrade Lázár with M. Thatcher**

On the cover: "Please file and copy it! Rák R. 02.14. *[signature of R. Rák]*"

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[In the top right corner of the page handwritten date: "3 February 1984"]

FOREIGN OFFICE

0080/18/1984

0003

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Tête-à-tête discussions

Comrade Lázár:

- Meetings of heads of governments are important, we take them seriously. We are conscious of the importance of your decision, we appreciate *[your]* visiting us. This visit is given a special importance by the problems of international situation. In such a situation meetings are more important than in other times. We know that the meeting itself is not going to change the way of things, be that of any importance, but still it is worthwhile even if we only start to think about the questions.

- Hungary became the centre of a certain attention, they speak a lot of Hungarian characteristics *[meaning also 'specialities', things that only refer to Hungary]*. Our geographical and other characteristics naturally give us a special image, but this does not change our socialist system and commitment. We have one face *[in Hungarian 'face' and 'image' are the same word]*, we show the same one to our friends, our partners of disputes and to internal *[Hungarian]* public opinion. Scientists, journalists, politicians often seek for a special reason behind our steps *[meaning decisions]*. There is no such one, if not that we try to remain realists and in this way we see our opportunities and the world's things. *[last phrase unclear]*

- Our bilateral relations are orderly without special problems. We appreciate that you supported our joining the World Bank, and we felt your goodwill when our monetary situation became a bit unstable. We can say the same concerning consultation with the European Common Market, where we feel your support and understanding in the solution of questions. There is no external reason or an urgent circumstance which would make us to pursue an agreement by giving up our interests, we make an agreement if this will be in accordance with our interests.

*[In the right bottom corner there is the exact archive code of the document written by hand:
"XIX-J-1-j-Anglia-6-13-0080/18/1984 (30.d.)"]*

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- We have interest in further raising the level of our bilateral relations, and not only in the field of economics. The already existing relations in this field and the achieved results are not to be underrated, but maybe we could do more.

- About international questions there will be opportunity to speak in more detail with Comrade Kádár, but I wish to make some words also here. We sincerely pursue to help the improvement of world-situation. We do not have twofold politics either here /a nice one for the outside and another one for internal consumption/. We know that we have some words [*meaning "we have some influence on"*] to affect world events, but we also know that these [*words*] are not decisive.

- I wish not to speak in the name of the socialist community, but some words have to be mentioned about the fact that two serious calculation mistakes can be made:

1./ which counts on that this alliance system or the single countries weaken from the inside; there are no idyllic circumstances, conflicts are possible, but it would not be right to draw far-reaching conclusions.

2./ It would be a wrong calculation as well to assume that military dominance can be reached. No historical examples are needed to bring to demonstrate what the Soviet Union and the other nations are capable of in case their freedom has to be protected.

In our public opinion there is a waiting [*the original Hungarian word is 'várakozás' encompassing the meanings 'waiting', and 'expectation'*] that in Europe two important countries, England and the FRG should advance the smoothing of favourable processes in search of the way of unfolding.

Thatcher

- It helps a lot that tête-à-tête conversations could take place, as this creates the frame for later discussions.

- This visit is of special importance from bilateral point of view. I wanted to come here, as I am here the first British prime minister. The other reason is that Hungary due to its geographical and historical

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situation is a country in a special situation. I am one of the first ones who understands your commitment to your social and alliance system. I am committed in the same way to our own alliance system and this helps me to understand the commitment of prime minister Lázár. I find it improbable that our generation would make a calculation mistake concerning alliance systems.

The timing of the visit has also a special importance: sometimes the opportunity for discussion emerges, there are more or less reasons for and against it, but this one now is really necessary.

The visit has a certain urgency at the moment: one of the reasons is that the USA for 10 months will be occupied with the elections. The other reason is that in your alliance system there is a strange situation as well, we could not see its leader for a rather long time. These circumstances put increased responsibility on the other members of alliance systems.

We have to live in the world which was created by these two alliance systems. We also have only one policy, I speak to anyone wherever I am, I represent this.

We have to see it clearly: the achievement of [a] result cannot be hoped in securing peace and raising the standard of living if we cannot create more understanding between the two alliance systems. We have two kinds of opportunity:

1./ Detailed discussions of precise opportunities

2./ General kind of discussions to obtain better understanding.

At the precise discussions precise problems arose, the disarmament discussions were interrupted. According to our opinion these discussions can go on better if the general understanding will improve. Great Britain plays a prominent role in its own alliance system /has a special relation to the US: due to its nuclear power, history/. All these factors she wishes to use to improve the situation.

This is the background of the visit which influences all of us in both alliance systems. I think Hungary will have a prominent role in its own alliance system.

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- Bilateral relations are good, we wish to build on them. The existence of alliance systems does not exclude good bilateral relations. There is a good relationship between some of our institutions, e.g. between the central banks of the two countries, these helped to solve problems.

- There is a unique situation in the Common Market, Great Britain always looks outside, just like in any moment of her history. Some members of the community are looking too much inside and are protectionists. Great Britain did not join the Community to accept this, but tries to obtain more contribution to the solution of the world's problems, to advance the destruction of obstacles, and not raising new obstacles. In accordance to this we make efforts when it is about the EEC and countries' relations, this support is dictated by our historical experiences.

- Let's have a few words about the wrong calculations that Mr Lázár mentioned: miscalculation would be deathly for a politician, and for this reason [she] does not think [ambiguous in original, but probably meaning that Thatcher does not think] that they commit it. Seeing the armament of the two alliance systems the question arises: could the security of both not be maintained at a lower level of armament, which would at the same time make it possible that they could occupy [themselves] more with their own economic and internal problems, with the improvement of their situation.

I understand the national pride of nations. Our whole pursuit's goal is to try to create those bases on which both of us can create our own fate according to our own ideas.

- I know that there are exaggerated expectations concerning my visit. Since our discussions are confidential, I will not be able to tell much to the press, maybe only catchwords [*i.e. a few brief, vague ideas*]. At the same time the visit, hopefully, will have a continuation in later contacts. I hope that at the end of the discussions, even if

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the outside world cannot see it, we will feel that we have achieved an advance.

Comrade Lázár:

I agree with those said about the visit and I wish to underline that concerning it we are filled with the same expectation that the Prime Minister told us about her standpoint.

I wish to say as well that we are devoted, but at the same time also open, which eases the continuation of the dialogue.

I thank you that you evaluate the bilateral relations similarly to us and that you see their improvement [*as*] probable.

[Bottom left corner: signature of L. Nagy and date: "2/3"]

[The folder contains an other copy (no. 0002) of the folder which is identical to this document, even the signature of L. Nagy is the same.]

[Translator's note: In the original Hungarian the text moves between first person singular and third person singular, sometimes changing abruptly. I have strictly followed the Hungarian text in this respect.]