

Hotel Royal, Budapest.

L44139-128212

As from ENCOUNTER, 25, Haymarket, London, S.W.1

Dear Professor Lukacs,

Sept 18th 64

I have typed out my draft of the main points in our interesting and (to me) most valuable discussion. Apart from slips I may have made, things you may object to or want cut or put differently, there are four or five hiatuses. I have also suggested that the ending might be a bit expanded, as your feeling about the revival of Marxism probably needs to be argued a bit more fully for the general reader.

I am leaving here ~~xx~~ (the Hotel Royal) very early on Monday, so perhaps it would be best if you could mail it to me at the above address in London.

~~xxxxxx~~ Thank you very much for giving me over an hour of your day. I hope it did not tire you. I was most happy and most instructed, as I hope these notes reveal. I went away thinking that if I had had a teacher like you when I was young I would be a less ignorant person than I am now.

Yours very Sincerely,

Stephen Spender

MTA FIL. DEPT.  
Lukács Arch.

If you simply write ~~around~~ the numbers of your insertions 1, 2, 3, 4, etc against the place in the typescript where they are to appear, and then write them on separate sheets of paper, I shall be able to rewrite the whole text and put them in. They will be quite all right in German, which I understand.

S.S.

1964

As from Encounter, 25, Haymarket, London, S.W.1.

September 20th

LMC 39-1282/4  
MTA FIL. INT.  
Lukács Arch.

Dear Professor Lucaks,

Thank you very much for your letter and for your notes. I am extremely sorry I did not see you at the hotel. At the ~~XXXXX~~ time when you were there I was being interviewed by Budapest Radio (the interview is very stupid).

~~When~~ It was not until I was on the point of leaving that I had any idea of writing about our conversation at all, except in my own private diary. What made me think of doing so was your rounding off the conversation so beautifully at the end. I do hope that you don't think that I took advantage of a personal conversation in order to turn it into a piece of reporting. If you have any such thought, and if you would rather I did not publish this, please let me know, and I will not do so.

Of course I will strike out "apologetic." ~~XXXX~~ I did not mean by it that you were apologetic in criticizing Encounter but merely that you were extremely courteous and that you took no pleasure in introducing this note into our interchange. However, I agree that the word "apologetic" ought not to appear in any proximity to your criticism of Encounter.

Your notes are most helpful, and I will rewrite my text, whether for publication or simply for myself. If you feel that it would be annoying to have this article published, please let me know so that I get the reply early in October.

Thank you very much once again for all the trouble you have taken.

Yours very Sincerely, LMC 39-128/4

MTA FIL. INT.  
Lukács Arch.

Stephen Spender

1964 sept. 20.