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武汉长江大桥
武汉印刷厂印制

Dear Prof. Kalmar and Mrs. Kalmar:

Jan. 31

With a sense of guilt, I am picking up the pen to resume our correspondence which would not have terminated but for my reprehensible negligence. Your last letter reached its destination in due time, only unfortunately I was away from home, spending the terminal two weeks and joining in labor with our students at a People's Commune in the vicinity of Shanghai. On my return, a multiplicity of tasks and affairs naturally demanded my immediate attention and even more so because of the continuation of an even greater leap forward in every aspect of our education system. Like all others, I had little time of my own, frequently staying in for nights at the university to save the two-and-half hours' daily trip as my home lies a great distance off, near 衡山賓館 if you still remember the tall mansion. I don't resent this state of things at all; on the contrary, I take pride in being able to do my little share in the socialist construction of our dear motherland. Though busy, I had been intending to send you some news since my return from the countryside and had always felt ill at ease the moment I thought on it. "A formal apology and a lucid explanation must be given," I thought to myself. And it unfailingly takes me time to write a letter of that kind, thus prolonging the delay even more. Days ~~have~~ passed on before I grew alarmed at my own unforgivable misbehaviour. Now in the vacation, I have leisure to write you a letter and implore you to forgive the unforgivable.

Though

How are your family? Thousands of kilometres apart, I miss you awfully and whenever anything Hungarian catches my glance or comes upon my ears, the two images of you never fail to loom up before my eyes, reminiscences of that one month keep crowding into my mind, so vividly clear as if it were only yesterday that we separated. Why such a deep impression? The sole answer lies in the amity and selfless help

of you great Hungarian people and is your exemplary illustration of our merits.

Today our Chinese Spring Festival sets in. Out in the streets, the unusually noisy hum of human voices, the rumbling of passing wheels packed with passengers in bright suits, the incessant ear-splitting explosion of crackers --- everything tells of the mirth of the Festival. What a joyful day after for the entire population of our country after this great-leap-year! You will witness a miraculous picture of China on your second visit.

Hungary as well as other socialist countries are making headway economically at top speed. News of tremendous achievements in your country is often reported here in China. In a short time, the peace camp will grow invincibly strong and the war-mongers will be forever finished. Allow me to wish you a nearer and happier future!

Yours,
Wang Hui-ling