

János Makowsky
3 Ein Gedi Street
34529 HAIFA, Israel

Tel/Fax: +972-4-833 2952
Tel: +972-4-833 3630

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Mr. Denis Solvay
Director
SOLVAY Group
Rue du prince Albert 44
1050 Bruxelles
Belgium

Dear Mr. Denis Solvay !

I am the grandson of Alexander (Sandor) Deutsch, Generaldirektor of HUNGARIA Spodium und Hüttenwerke, Budapest from 1936 till its nationalization in 1948. In this period, your industrial enterprise SOLVAY owned 49% of HUNGARIA, the remaining 51% were controlled by Aus-siger Verein, Czechosloviaka.

I am writing a biography of Sandor Deutsch, one of the leading Hungarian entrepreneurs, who started his career in 1912 in the bone processing business and became one of Central Europe's leading industrialists and a colleague and partner of the Solvay family and the SOLVAY Group. I would like to ask for your permission and cooperation in consulting the archives of your family enterprise (and possibly personal recollections of family members).

I am particularly interested in the reconstruction of the events from March 1944 (German invasion of Hungary and my grandfather's arrest by the Gestapo) to spring 1948 (nationalisation of HUNGARY by the Hungarians in a hostile takeover bid where SOLVAY's loyal delegates led by A. Deutsch lost a crucial vote). From May 1944 on, Mr. Deutsch was allowed to correspond with Rezső Wenzler (Wenczler), Director of Hungaria, and my mother (interned in the Kistarsza Internement Camp) although he remained in the custody of the Gestapo in Budapest till October 1944. He then was deported by the Gestapo to Mauthausen (near Vienna) and kept in Oberlanzendorf Internement Camp. From there he was deported on November 20, 1944 to Berlin and was detained there till May 1945 in an "Intelligenzlager", where he worked on the preparation of plans for the economic recovery of Germany after the war. He was, according to his own testimony, brought there by the intervention of a Mr. Behmann (Bemann ?), German delegate of the European Glue Cartel EPIDOS, who, with this intervention, saved my grandfather's life. A. Deutsch resumed his work as Generaldirektor of HUNGARIA in 1945. During a visit at SOLVAY in January of 1948 (December 1947?) he was warned that his arrest by the AVO (Hungarian Political Police) was imminent, and he decided not to return to Hungary but to stay in Zürich (February 1948). I do not know exactly whether this was before or after completion of the nationalisation of HUNGARIA (or during the nationalisation procedures).

I hope that your archives can provide me with further information concerning these events, and I am looking forward to your help. You may also find it interesting to reconstruct these past events involving both our families.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely yours

Encls:

Fotograph of Alexander Deutsch (and his wife)

An article in German I wrote on my grandfather's internement by the Gestapo (in German).