

THE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE OF EDUCATION

by

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Less than two years have passed since, at the Tenth Party Congress, where decisions on the most important questions of the building of socialism at a higher level were taken, János Kádár said when giving the report of the Central Committee:

“The tasks that face the country and the rapid development of science and technology require the development of the nation’s skills, and the constant extension of knowledge on a society-wide scale. The further improvement of education is therefore one of the basic problems of socialist progress. The Party must in the near future take another look at the whole system of education.”

The declaration of the Central Committee on education is therefore based on the decisions of the Tenth Party Congress. The time-table itself, as a process, has a meaning in this respect.

The analysis of reality

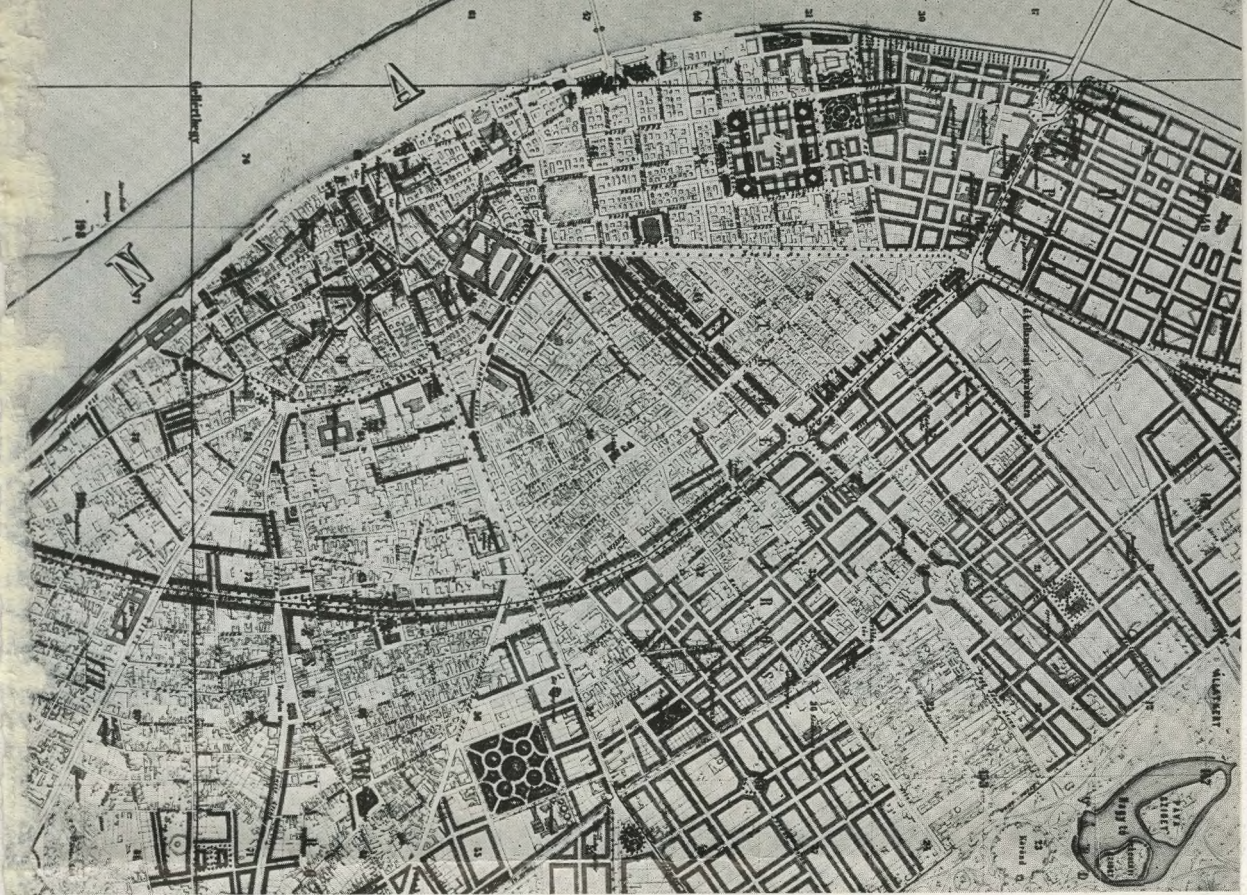
The Party Congress’s choice of education policy as an objective that had to be re-examined was based on a proper analysis of real and present tendencies.

The analysis of the real situation pointed to three factors, their point of juncture being education policy. Firstly it is clear that the increased requirements of industrial, agricultural and intellectual production can only be met through a general raising of standards. Rising standards throughout

The present text was prepared on the basis of shorthand notes taken when György Aczél addressed the National Conference on Education Policy, on September 20th, 1972. The conference was attended by teachers, kindergarten teachers, headmasters, and Party, Council and other officials. The text was here and there supplemented by passages from György Aczél’s report to the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party on the situation and development of education.

The romantic-eclectic architecture of the period of unification—in the seventies—harmonized well with the city's landscape and its quiet rhythm of the classicism of the beginning of the century. The Danube embankment was constructed and a funicular railway to Castle Hill was built in 1868–70, a cogwheel railway on the neighbouring hills in 1873, as well as a horse-drawn circle tramway system. The first railway station in Pest was built in 1847, in Buda in 1861, the second Danube (or Margaret) Bridge in 1874. A row of hotels was erected on the Pest embankment alongside other new buildings and houses.

The first factories, mills and banks were also built and with them the capital entered the growing list of European cities showing rapid industrial development.



Budapest development plan by the Metropolitan Works Council showing the planned Radial and Ring Roads.

Photo: Tamás Mihalik

Pest, Danube bank (Engraving, 1850)

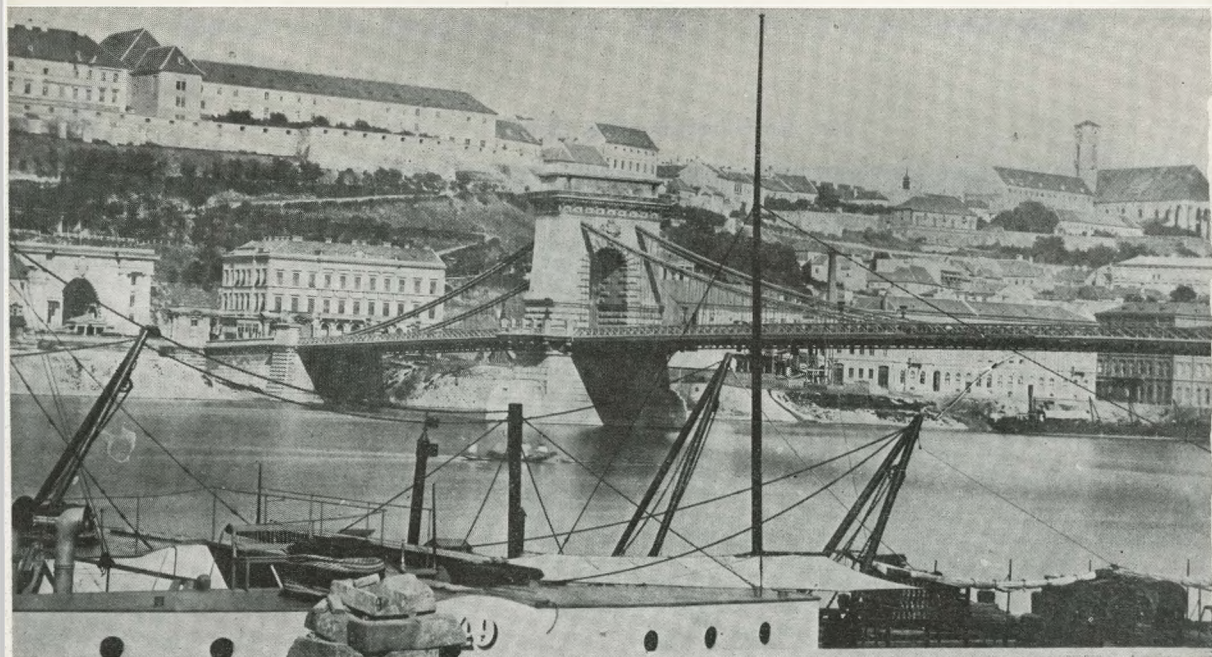




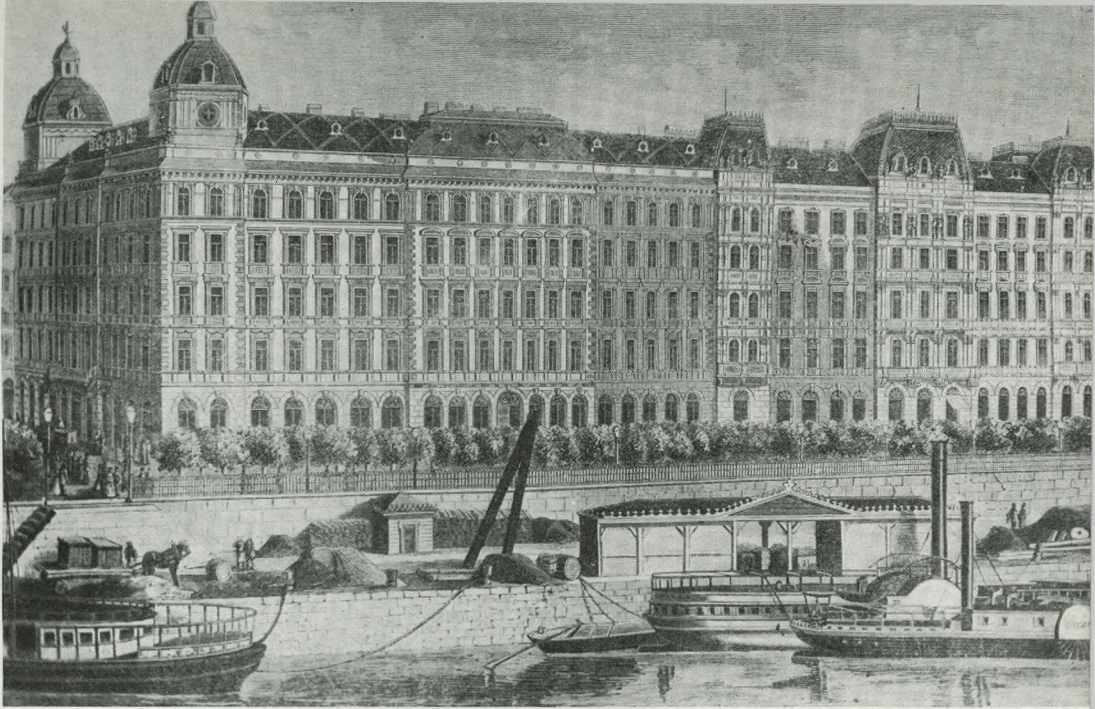
Queen of England Hotel (Sandmann lithograph based on Alt's drawing, 1853)

Photo: Tamás Mihalik

*The Chain Bridge (William Tierney Clark), the Tunnel (Adam Clark)
and the first eclectic buildings (Miklós Ybl), in 1866*



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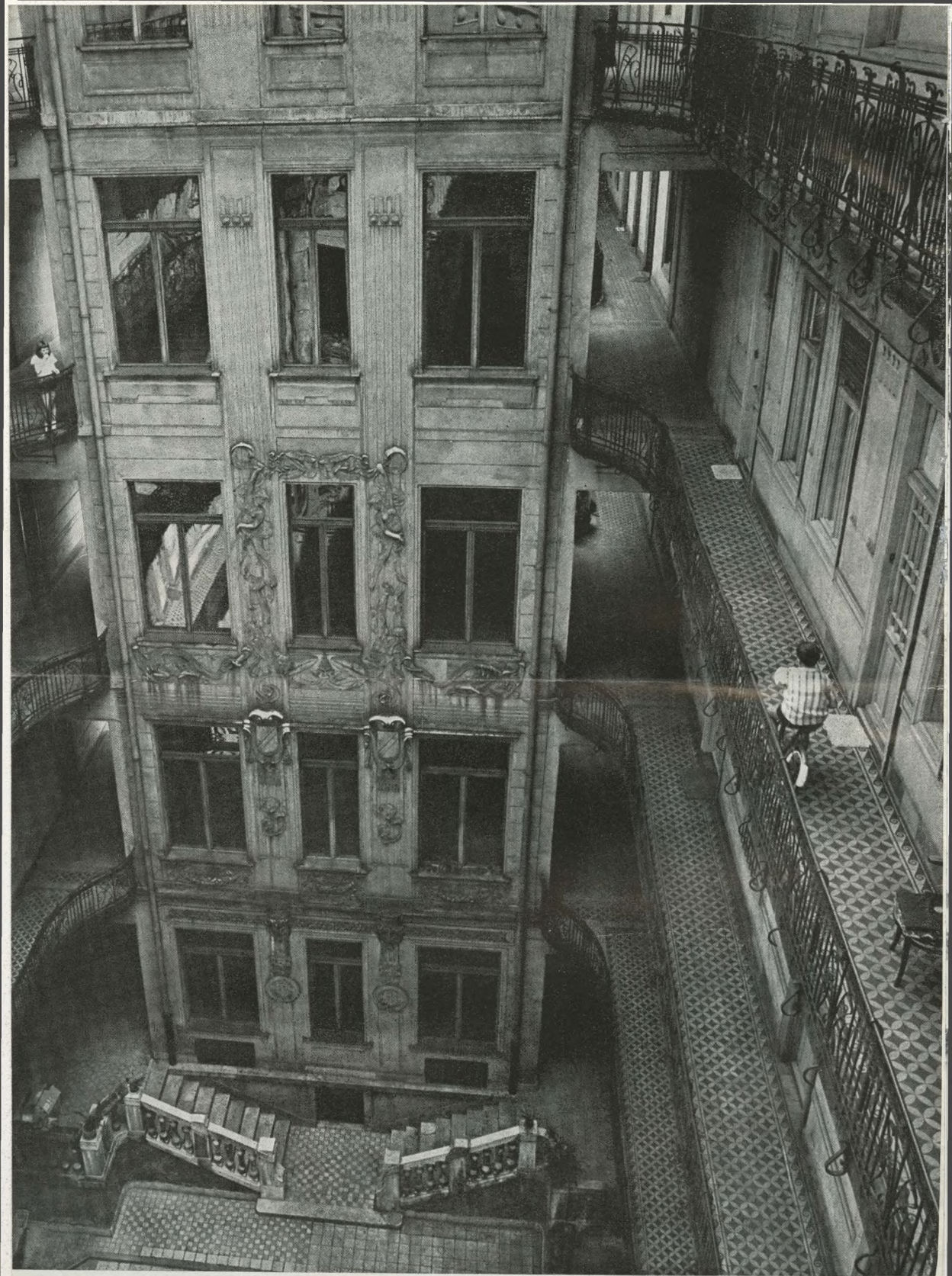


Part of the Lower Embankment on the Pest side (Vasárnapi Újság, 1873)

The Andrassy (Népköztársaság) Avenue around 1890

7.





Courtyard of a Pest house

Photo: János Reismann





The Danube embankment

Photo: János Reismann





View with Erzsébet bridge

Photo: János Reismann

*These photographs are taken from János Reismann: Theme and Variations (Corvina, Budapest, 1972)
reviewed on pp. 177–178.*