

**300 JEWS ARRIVE FROM VIENNA****Some Claim Russian Provocation Was Behind Hijacking Of Vienna-Bound Train**

TEL AVIV, Sept. 30 (JTA)--Three hundred Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union arrived here on two El Al flights from Vienna early this morning. Some of them expressed the opinion that Communist provocation was behind the hijacking of the Moscow-Vienna express train by two Arab terrorists Friday which led to the Austrian government's decision to close down the Jewish Agency's immigrant transit center at Schoenau Castle near Vienna.

Today's arrivals were at Schoenau when the events took place. They said they based their suspicions on what they were told by Mrs. David Szaplik, wife of one of the three Jewish hostages removed from the train by the terrorists. Mrs. Szaplik and her child were held at gunpoint by the terrorists but managed to escape unharmed.

There were two Russian women in the compartment at the time who told the Jews, "Why go to Israel. Why are you looking for trouble?" according to Mrs. Szaplik. Boris Stromberg, 25, an emigre from Czernowitz, said, "Everyone in Vienna is convinced it was all a Russian provocation intended to end Jewish emigration from Russia."

ISRAEL DEMANDS AUSTRIA REVOKE DECISION

JERUSALEM, Sept. 30 (JTA)--Israel demanded today that Austria revoke its decision to close the transit station that the Jewish Agency maintains for Soviet Jewish emigrants at Schoenau Castle near Vienna. The demand was contained in a communique released here after midnight which charged that the Austrian government's "surrender to the terrorist demands is encouragement for continuation of acts of extortion and violence and a dangerous burden on Jews' right of passage."

The communique was released following a three-hour emergency session of the Cabinet which heard a report from the Israeli Ambassador to Austria, Yitzhak Patish. The envoy was recalled yesterday for urgent consultations after Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky announced his government's decision to close the facilities at Schoenau to save the lives of three Soviet Jews and an Austrian customs official held hostage by two Arab terrorists who hijacked the Moscow-Vienna express in Czechoslovakia on Friday.

Patish, who landed at Lod Airport last night, hinted to reporters that there had been a meaningful shift in the Austrian position between Kreisky's announcement and his subsequent statements and telephone conversations with the Israeli envoy. Patish did not disclose the contents of the message and letter from Kreisky to the Cabinet. Asked if Schoenau was to be shut, he replied in the negative. "Olim arrived there today and they will arrive tomorrow," he said, but did not elaborate.

Charge Austria Capitulated To Terrorists

Whatever message Patish brought with him did not mollify the Israeli Cabinet. The communique reflected bitterness and anger on the part of Israel over the Austrian action, a feeling that was widespread today throughout Israel. The Knesset, meanwhile, has been called into emergency session tomorrow to discuss the events in Austria.

The Israeli communique was tempered somewhat by an expression of appreciation for "the humanitarian tradition followed by the Austrian government for years in respect of Jews on their way to their homeland." But it did not conceal its shock that this policy may have been ended. "The government of Israel expresses its astonishment at the Austrian government's unjustified decision which is interpreted as recoiling and acquiescence in the terrorists' demands," the communique said.

"The government of Israel cannot acquiesce in the hasty decision and calls on the Austrian government to revoke it and to continue to make the arrangements that have obtained to date with regard to the passage of Jews from the Soviet Union to Israel. The government of Israel will communicate with the government of Austria on this matter," the communique added. The Cabinet gave no indication when Patish would return to his post. His swift recall was seen as another indication of Israel's bitterness toward the Austrian action.

WAS AUSTRIA'S DECISION RIGHT?

By Peter Friedlinger, JTA Vienna Correspondent

VIENNA, Sept. 30 (JTA)--Did the Austrian government arrive at the right decision by giving political concessions to the two Arab terrorists? This was the controversial question passionately discussed today by Austrian politicians, journalists and the public.

In a late night television interview Chancellor Bruno Kreisky underlined once more his Cabinet's decision to close down the transit camp at Schoenau and to end facilities for groups of Soviet Jews emigrating to Israel.

"I personally believe that we would sooner or later have had to order a modification of this policy because of the situation which was developing," Kreisky said. He added: "We are not forbidding transit to anyone, we only cease offering facilities. Anything else is dramatization."

Austrian officials say that Kreisky is determined to fully implement this new policy. They confirmed that the Austrian government had been thinking for some time about the possibility of at least gradually restricting the facilities for Jewish emigrants on Austrian territory.

Kreisky Aware Of "Shock And Dismay"

Kreisky himself repeated his promise to let individual immigrants with visas pass through Austria but emphasized "We can no longer offer them any facilities because to do so invites armed men from all sides on our territory." A government spokesman said Kreisky is aware of the "shock and dismay" expressed by the Israeli government. "He knew that the Israeli ambassador disagreed with Austria's decision. The Israeli government's reaction did not come unexpected."

One of the other questions so far unanswered is: What nation could take over Austria's role as a way-station for Soviet Jews? Jewish circles hope that Rumania would offer to step in. They argue that Rumania maintained relations with Israel after the Six-Day War. Rumania is also the only Socialist Eastern European country the airplanes of which fly to Israel.

Transit on a private basis as Kreisky said would cut down immigration to a minimum, political observers said. Austrian police said that security measures would be more difficult to be put

to effect than ever," Israeli sources said it is doubtful if Kreisky will carry out his "promise" to the end. So far there have been no plans made to evacuate Schoenau which has served 70,000 Soviet Jews as a transit camp to date.

The management of Schoenau has plans for various improvements and intends to give a new coat of paint to various rooms. In Schoenau, which always looked more like a besieged castle with dozens of heavily armed policemen patrolling around the compound, security measures have been heavily stepped up. The number of policemen on permanent duty has been increased five-fold, police sources said. Reserve forces are stationed at Lobersdorf, a neighboring village.

MEANING OF DECISION STILL UNCLEAR

By David Landau, JTA Jerusalem Correspondent

JERUSALEM, Sept. 30 (JTA)--Despite the outcry, the shocked reactions, the tough Cabinet line, and the apprehensions, no one in Jerusalem could say today what precisely is the meaning of the Austrian decision. It seemed as if Israel and the Jewish Agency were playing it safe; reacting violently and volubly in case the worst happens and the transit of immigrants is made impossible, and at the same time blanket refusal to discuss--at least openly--any contingency plans for moving olim other than through Schoenau.

The Austrian Ambassador to Israel herself could not enlighten top Israeli officials on the real and final intentions of the Vienna government. The envoy, Dr. Johanna Nestor, flew in to Lod last night having been ordered to cut short her holiday. Today she met with Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Kidron in Jerusalem at her request to tell him what she knew.

Some Hope For Reversal Of Decision

She pointed out that whereas in the original statement by Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, it seemed clear that Schoenau would be closed, subsequent statements left room for hope that it would not. The Ambassador drew particular attention to a speech Kreisky made yesterday to a group of visiting Soviet parliamentarians in which he said:

"Austria believes in humanitarian principles --I stress this especially today...nothing that has happened or will happen will change our position or our laws or our humanitarian principles.... There will be certain small changes in the interests of preserving peace in the country but there will be no radical change in our principles. Austria will continue to be a state which gives haven to persons who see themselves persecuted and who want to reach another country...which other country is willing to take them in via Austria...."

As of tonight the situation seemed fluid. Dr. Nestor and Israel's envoy to Austria, Yitzhak Patish, are in contact with the Foreign Ministry in Vienna. Dr. Nestor said in an interview that she did not take personally the demonstrations in Tel Aviv outside her Embassy. Even the rotten eggs splashed on the wall was understandable, she said, observing that the demonstrators could very well have cousins or friends waiting to leave Russia.

Foreign Ministry officials discounted observers' speculation that Patish's recall to Israel was intended as an expression of displeasure. He went only to report they said, and would return very shortly.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned that Patish came in for some sharp criticism from ministers at the Cabinet meeting in Jerusalem last night. They all thought he had been duped by

the Austrians who made their deal with the terrorists while pretending to Patish that all was well. However, they did not blame him for his optimistic reports from Vienna. But they did blame him for making an optimistic statement at Lod when he arrived last night and in general for being too hopeful in interviews.

AUSTRIAN MATTER NOT CLOSED, EBAN SAYS

LONDON, Sept. 30 (JTA)--The Israeli Foreign Minister, Abba Eban, who stopped over here on his way to the United Nations in New York, was interviewed on independent television about the Austrian affair. Asked if this was a victory for the terrorists, he replied: "Let's wait until the matter ends. I do not regard the matter as closed. Austria may well change her mind under the intense pressure from all over the world, and under the almost unanimous pressures from inside Austria." Asked if the Austrian government was not under obligation to keep its promise to the terrorists, Eban said: "On the contrary, it was under obligation not to keep this kind of so-called promise to two criminals."

DULZIN: JEWISH AGENCY HAS NO ALTERNATIVE CENTER FOR MIGRANTS

JERUSALEM, Sept. 30 (JTA)--The Jewish Agency's acting chairman Leon Dulzin said today that the Agency had no alternative center for Soviet Jewish emigrants should the Austrian authorities shut down the Schoenau Castle. "We do not foresee any alternative and we are not going to discuss any alternative," Dulzin said at a press conference here following a special session of the Jewish Agency Executive where it heard a report from Yitzhak Patish, Israel's Ambassador to Austria.

Dulzin said the Jewish Agency joined the Israel government's demand that Austria rescind its decision, made under Arab terrorist pressure, to close down Schoenau. He expressed hope that Vienna would consider the demands of Israel which, he said, were shared by the entire Jewish people and world public opinion. Earlier he declared: "It is hard to believe that the Austrian government which has earned such great merit in aiding tens of thousands of olim over the past few years, should suddenly decide to take such action under threats from murderous terrorists."

He conceded, however, that if Schoenau is closed "we will be faced with a most difficult decision." He said that up to now there has been no word from the Austrian authorities of any immediate plan to close the transit facility. He said Schoenau was continuing to function as usual.

Terror, Blackmail Encouraged By Decision

Dulzin disclosed that 72 emigrants arrived yesterday in Vienna from the Soviet Union, 76 this morning and a similar number this afternoon. "They were treated in the usual manner," Dulzin said.

Some grounds for optimism appeared to follow Chancellor Bruno Kreisky's explanation yesterday that Austria would continue to allow emigrants to enter as individuals. "From our point of view, there is no significance to the form of papers the immigrants are holding. They are coming in groups with individual passports and visas for Austria," Dulzin said.

Moshe Rivlin, director general of the Jewish Agency, said at the press conference that the Austrian transit station was important because it is a natural passage point for immigrants from Russia. "Suppose we give up and move the camp to another country, who would guarantee us that the same thing would not happen there?" Rivlin said.

TERRORISM AND CAPITULATION

By Peter Friedlinger, JTA Vienna Correspondent

VIENNA, Sept. 30 (JTA)--Two young Arab terrorists achieved their biggest political success in the history of the anti-Israel terrorist campaign by forcing the Austrian government to yield to their political demands early Friday morning.

Before the two terrorists released their four hostages--three Soviet Jews on their way to Israel and an Austrian customs official--Austria's Jewish-born Chancellor Bruno Kreisky announced in a radio broadcast after midnight that Austria would restrict transit facilities for Jewish emigrants and close down the transit center at Schoenau Castle near Vienna. The castle has so far served as a refugee center run by the Jewish Agency, for 70,000 Soviet Jews emigrating to Israel since Feb. 1971.

The decision, which took everyone by surprise --not only Austrian officials, but also Arab diplomats and Israelis and the two terrorists--has sparked a controversial debate in Austria. Israeli Ambassador Yitzhak Patish, who had followed the dramatic events at Vienna Airport throughout the night from the Austrian Ministry of Interior, said in a statement yesterday morning: "This is the first time in the history of Arab terrorism that terrorists have obtained political concessions."

Patish, who was summoned home by the Israeli government for further consultations, added: "The Austrian government's decision strikes a severe blow, not only at Austrian-Israeli relations, but at all humanity. How can you support Sakharov's struggle and protest over Allende's fall and yet stop the emigration of fleeing refugees?"

Simon Wiesenthal, director of the Jewish Documentation Center in Vienna, criticized the decision by the Austrian government saying it could only lead to more terrorism. He called the promise to close Schoenau "A direct violation of the United Nations convention on refugees."

The Drama And Tensions Continued For Hours

The terrorist attack was the first time the Israeli-Arab conflict had come to the tiny Alpine Republic. The drama began, according to police sources, Friday at 10:30 a.m. in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, 40 miles from Vienna, before the Chopin Express--the Moscow-Vienna express--crossed at noon to the Austrian border town of Marchegg. In Bratislava, the two terrorists identified as Mustafa Aoueidan, 25, and Mahmoud Khaldi, 27, boarded the train.

As two Austrian customs officials entered the compartment, they pulled out their machine guns and opened fire. A Czech train engineer was wounded. According to eye witnesses, the two Arabs then took five Jewish emigrants, but a young woman and her child managed to escape later.

Thirty-seven Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union were on the train. The two Arabs sat in one of the compartments. One of them, Mahmoud Khaldi, is registered in Austrian political police files, as a member of the Palestinian terrorist organization, El Fatah, and has participated in the past in several terrorist attacks.

The two men then took with them three Soviet Jews, Chaim Baransky, 71, and his 68-year-old wife, Jelka, David Czaplak, 26, and the Austrian customs officer, Franz Bobits, 60. They obtained a blue Volkswagen bus and drove to Vienna's Schwechat airport.

The negotiations went on for hours, under the eyes of hundreds of spectators and journalists watching the drama from the airport restaurant above the ramp. The negotiations were conducted by the chief of Austrian security, Oswald Peterlunger, assisted by two prominent psychiatrists, Dr. Willibald Slug and Prof. Friedrich Hacker, a Vienna-born psychologist living in California.

Several police cars blocked the passage of the Volkswagen bus. Sharpshooters took positions on the airport terrace and behind cars, but were withdrawn later as darkness set in. The Austrian authorities reacted thus to the warning of the two psychiatrists that the Arabs were under the influence of drugs and their behavior could be spontaneous and therefore very dangerous.

Early Saturday morning the drama came to an end. The two terrorists, provided with a light Cessna plane at Vienna Airport, piloted by two Austrians, sought sanctuary in an Arab country but were initially denied permission to land in Libya, Tunisia and Algeria, the only Arab countries within the plane's flying range. Eventually, Malta announced that it would permit the terrorists to land on its territory. However, they flew instead to Libya where they were accepted. At Tripoli-Airport they told newsmen today, according to the Libyan news agency, that their aim was to "attack Zionist targets outside the occupied land."

JEWISH LEADERS EXCORIATE AUSTRIA

NEW YORK, Sept. 30 (JTA)--Jewish leaders in this country excoriated Austria's announced decision to close facilities for Jews enroute to Israel and termed it a capitulation to the blackmail of Arab terrorism. At the same time they expressed hope that the decision was only a temporary one and appealed to the Austrian government to reverse itself. Jacob Stein, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, announced that the Conference will hold an emergency meeting tomorrow morning to deal with the Austrian government's decision and to plan united action.

Stein and Richard Maass, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, sent telegrams to Arno Halusa, Austria's Ambassador to the United States, declaring:

"This yielding to the blackmail of Arab terrorists is immoral and unbecoming to a sovereign state. At a time when the Congress of the United States is declaring in the clearest terms its concern for the right of free emigration, action by the Austrian government in refusing entry to Israel is reprehensible and merits the condemnation of the entire civilized world.

"The history of Jews deported from Austria to death camps during World War II remains a black page in the annals of human relations. Today, Jews who are seeking freedom are entitled to Austria's complete and continuing cooperation. We call on the government of Austria to reconsider its position and not to surrender to Arab terrorists but to reopen its gates to Jews seeking freedom."

Stein also sent a telegram to United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim urging him to use his full official weight with the Austrian government to reverse its decision "which is a blatant violation of international rights and obligations and a frightening reminder of Austria's attitude toward Jews during the pre-World War II days."

Concession Encourages Further Blackmail

Bertram H. Gold, executive vice-president of the American Jewish Committee, expressed the hope that Austria's decision was temporary and that Austria's "customary hospitality" would be

resumed "immediately." Anything else, he stated, "would be too incredible to contemplate." In a statement released this weekend, Gold added: "No Soviet Jew, hostage or not, would want to see the flow of Jewish immigration through Austria interrupted. One can only hope that Chancellor (Bruno) Kreisky was announcing a momentary decision to curb the immigration of Soviet Jews in order to save the lives of the hostages."

Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, president of the American Jewish Congress, urged President Nixon "to use every possible influence on the government of Austria to reverse its shameful capitulation to Arab terror." Austria's decision, he stated, "affronts not only those seeking to emigrate from the USSR; it threatens the very basis of international order and national sovereignty, including our own." The U.S. and every member of the world community has a direct interest in seeing to it "that national policy and international obligations are not to be at the mercy of a handful of killers," he said, adding that "surrender to blackmail leads only to more blackmail."

Rabbi Israel Miller, president of the American Zionist Federation, sent a telegram to the Austrian Ambassador in Washington urging him "to make known to your government the deep sense of indignation and outrage we feel at the capitulation of the Austrian government.... We urge your government to rescind its outrageous and shameful surrender to those terrorists. Any other action will serve to encourage terrorist elements everywhere and bring disgrace upon the Austrian people and government."

David M. Blumberg, president of B'nai B'rith, in a telegram to the Austrian Ambassador urging that his government reverse its "inexplicable decision," said it was "incredible that Austria would abruptly forbid the humanitarian purposes" of the camp by an "ignominious action that suggests it will submit to the dictates of a couple of gunmen. It is shocking to the point of absurdity that a free nation, and indeed, the international community, will allow itself to be reduced to paralyzed submission by the gangster bravado that has been the ploy of the Arab terrorist movement."

HUNDREDS IN PROTEST RALLIES

NEW YORK, Sept. 30 (JTA)--Hundreds of people have been participating in spontaneous demonstrations outside the Austrian Consulate here. Malcolm Hoenlein, director of the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry, said the reaction against Austria's decision to close the reception center for Soviet Jews is greater than anytime since the Munich massacre.

Last night more than 150 persons participated in a midnight vigil sponsored by Young Israel, Queens Council for Soviet Jewry and the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry. SSSJ members demonstrated at Carnegie Hall today and then marched along Fifth Avenue to the Consulate a mile away. Jewish community groups in Brooklyn and elsewhere plan to rally tomorrow afternoon in front of the Austrian tourist offices on Fifth Avenue at 45th St. Emergency meetings are also being scheduled by synagogues on Long Island and elsewhere in the New York area.

In a leaflet distributed by SSSJ today which noted that it was the 32nd anniversary of the slaughter of Jews at Babi Yar, the group de-

clared: "For the Austrian government to completely abdicate to the demands of--or volunteer to, as the Austrian Interior Minister has disclosed--two Arab terrorists to shut down the Schoenau transit camp suddenly brings back the long shadows of the Nazi past. Austria's moral responsibility cannot be so conveniently terminated."

BRITISH JEWS ORGANIZE ACTIONS

LONDON, Sept. 30 (JTA)--The Board of Deputies of British Jews sent a telegram today to Chancellor Bruno Kreisky expressing dismay over the decision by the Austrian government and announcing that a delegation of Board members will call tomorrow on the Austrian Ambassador here to express its protest. The telegram, signed by Sir Samuel Fisher, Board president, Alderman Michael Fidler, MP, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, and Abraham Marks, Board secretary, stated:

"We cannot believe that your government intends to deprive people who are on their way to freedom of their basic human requirements. The Board earnestly requests you and your government to reconsider the decision and to retract statements made under the threat of bloodshed." A copy of this telegram was sent to British Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas-Home asking him to use his office to influence the Austrian government to retract its decision to close the Schoenau transit center for Soviet Jewish migrants.

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, cabled Kreisky expressing astonishment and deep regret over the decision and noted that providing assistance to migrants and refugees "is one of the most elementary humanitarian duties." He declared: "World Jewry earnestly hopes that Austria will reconsider her decision, taken under duress, and therefore not binding, and continue to offer Soviet Jewish migrants the humanitarian services and facilities offered them hitherto."

A Bargain With The Devil

Dr. Maurice Miller, Labor MP for Kelvingrove, Glasgow, and vice-chairman of the Anglo-Austrian Society, sent a strongly worded message to the Austrian Ambassador here in which he stated that "to agree to the conditions laid down by such despicable creatures (the Arab terrorists) is to make a bargain with the devil himself."

Continuing, Dr. Miller declared: "I associate myself completely with my Jewish colleagues in the United Kingdom and Israel in their protests against the Austrian government's action, and can only hope that since the bargain was struck under the severest duress, your government would not consider it dishonorable in the slightest to make clear to the world that she has no intention of being held to these terms."

BEN GURION HOSPITALIZED

TEL AVIV, Sept. 30 (JTA)--Former Premier David Ben Gurion was hospitalized shortly before Rosh Hashana, it was disclosed today. Physicians said the 87-year-old elder statesman suffered from a cold accompanied by fever. They said his cold was cured but he was still running a fever today and would remain in the hospital until the cause was determined. Doctors at Tel Hashomer Hospital where Ben Gurion was taken said his condition otherwise was satisfactory and that there was no cause for alarm.