

17 AUG 1964

(320)

1207 AED

248 PED

FIRST LEAD DEFECTORS

TOKYO, MONDAY, AUG. 17 (AP)-TWO DEFECTING RUSSIAN MUSICIANS EN ROUTE TO WEST GERMANY AFTER SEEKING ASYLUM AT THE U.S. EMBASSY HERE ARE TRAVELING ON "AFFIDAVITS OF IDENTITY" AND NOT ON AMERICAN PASSPORTS, THE EMBASSY SAID TODAY.

THE PAIR, WHO SAID BEFORE LEAVING TOKYO LAST NIGHT, "IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GO ON LIVING IN RUSSIA ONLY ON THE PROMISE THAT THINGS WILL BE BETTER SOME TIME," MADE A STOPOVER AT ANCHORAGE, ALASKA. THEIR SCANDINAVIAN AIRLINES PLANE ALSO WAS DUE TO STOP AT COPENHAGEN. THEY ASKED FOR ASYLUM SATURDAY.

JAPANESE NATIONAL POLICE AUTHORITIES SAID THE TWO YOUNG RUSSIANS WERE TRAVELING ON AMERICAN PASSPORTS WHEN THEY FLEW OUT OF TOKYO.

AT THAT TIME, THE U.S. EMBASSY REFUSED TO EITHER CONFIRM OR DENY THAT IT HAD SUPPLIED THE RUSSIANS WITH AMERICAN PASSPORTS.

MONDAY, AN EMBASSY SPOKESMAN SAID THE RUSSIANS WERE TRAVELING ON "AFFIDAVITS OF IDENTITY, SWORN TO BEFORE AN AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICER, WITH AN AMERICAN TRANSIT VISA AND A VALIDATION OF ENTRY FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY."

THE AMERICAN TRANSIT VISA PERMITTED DRUMMER BORIS MIDNEY, 27, AND BASSIST IGOR BERECSHTIS, 31, TO PASS THROUGH ANCHORAGE.

THE VALIDATION OF ENTRY, SECURED FROM THE WEST GERMAN EMBASSY IN TOKYO, PERMITS THEM TO ENTER WEST GERMANY.

ONCE IN WEST GERMANY, AN EMBASSY SOURCE SAID, THE TWO CAN EITHER CHANGE THEIR MIND AND RETURN TO RUSSIA OR CAN ENTER A REFUGEE CAMP AND APPLY FOR ADMISSION TO THE UNITED STATES OR SOME OTHER COUNTRY.

A U.S. EMBASSY SOURCE HAD EMPHASIZED EARLIER THAT THE TWO HAD NOT BEEN GRANTED ASYLUM.

THE PAIR TOLD JAPANESE OFFICIALS THEY DID NOT WANT TO RETURN TO RUSSIA, DID NOT WANT TO TALK TO SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN TOKYO AND WERE MAKING THE DECISION TO FLY TO WEST GERMANY OF THEIR OWN FREE WILL.

AT ANCHORAGE THE RUSSIANS REMAINED IN SECLUSION DURING A 1 HOUR AND 15 MINUTE REFUELING STOP. THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED BY A MAN DESCRIBED BY IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS AS A U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY ESCORT. THE THREE REFUSED TO SPEAK WITH NEWSMEN OR ALLOW THEIR PICTURES TO BE TAKEN.

THE TWO RUSSIANS HAD BEEN MEMBERS OF A MUSICAL TROUP TOURING JAPAN. SIX CARLOADS OF JAPANESE POLICE ESCORTED THEM TO TOKYO AIRPORT.

~~AT THE AIRPORT X X 11TH GRAF PVS A40.~~

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DEFECTORS BUDGET (420)

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO, AUG. 16 (AP)-"IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GO ON LIVING IN RUSSIA ONLY ON THE PROMISE THAT THINGS WILL BE BETTER SOME TIME."

WITH THESE WORDS, TWO RUSSIAN MUSICIANS WHO DEFECTED YESTERDAY AND SOUGHT ASYLUM IN THE U.S. EMBASSY HERE, BOARDED A PLANE WHICH WILL MAKE STOPS AT ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, AND COPENHAGEN. JAPANESE POLICE AT THE AIRPORT SAID THE TWO HAD U.S. PASSPORTS AND WERE GOING TO WEST GERMANY.

AT ANCHORAGE, THE RUSSIANS REMAINED IN SECLUSION DURING A 1 HOUR 15 MINUTE REFUELING STOP. THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED BY A MAN DESCRIBED BY IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS AS A CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY ESCORT FROM THE U.S. EMBASSY IN TOKYO.

THE THREE WENT QUICKLY INTO A PRIVATE OFFICE IN THE CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION SECTION OF THE AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING, REFUSING TO SPEAK WITH REPORTERS OR ALLOW THEIR PICTURES TO BE TAKEN.

THEY REBOARDED THE PLANE WHEN IT WAS READY AT 11 A.M. (4 P.M. EST) FOR THE 8 1/2 HOUR FLIGHT TO COPENHAGEN.

U.S. EMBASSY OFFICIALS WOULD NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY THAT THE RUSSIANS HAD BEEN GIVEN U.S. PASSPORTS. EARLIER, HOWEVER, A U.S. EMBASSY SOURCE EMPHASIZED THAT THE TWO HAD NOT BEEN GRANTED ASYLUM.

INFORMED SOURCES SAID THAT ONCE THE TWO WERE IN WEST GERMANY THEY COULD EITHER CHANGE THEIR MINDS AND RETURN TO RUSSIA OR ENTER A REFUGEE CAMP AND APPLY FOR ADMISSION TO THE UNITED STATES OR SOME OTHER COUNTRY OF THEIR CHOICE.

BEFORE GOING TO THE AIRPORT, DRUMMER BORIS MIDNEY, 27, AND BASSIST IGOR BERECSHTIS, 31, TOLD JAPANESE OFFICIALS THEY DID NOT WANT TO RETURN TO RUSSIA, DID NOT WANT TO TALK TO SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIALS HERE, AND WERE MAKING THE DECISION TO FLY TO WEST GERMANY OF THEIR OWN FREE WILL.

SIX CARLOADS OF JAPANESE POLICE ESCORTED THE TWO TO THE AIRPORT.

THE TWO HAD BEEN MEMBERS OF A MUSICAL TROUPE TOURING JAPAN.

AT THE AIRPORT, THEY ISSUED A JOINTLY SIGNED STATEMENT WHICH SAID THEY WERE DEFECTING BECAUSE OF LACK OF FREEDOM FOR THE ARTS IN RUSSIA AND HAD MADE THEIR DECISION "A LONG TIME AGO."

THE STATEMENT, AS TRANSLATED BY POLICE:

"WE DECIDED OF OUR OWN FREE WILL TO LEAVE THE SOVIET UNION AND TO ASK THE HELP OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. WE ARE MUSICIANS AND WE WANT TO BE FREE IN CONTINUING OUR WORK IN MUSIC."

A41

"IN THE SOVIET UNION, ALL FORMS OF ART ARE GUIDED POLITICALLY. WE CONSTANTLY RECEIVE ORDERS AS TO WHAT WE SHOULD DO AND WHAT WE SHOULD SAY. WE HAVE BEEN ROBBED OF OUR INITIATIVE AS MUSICIANS AND OUR INDIVIDUALITY HAS BEEN CRUSHED, BUT WE LIKE OUR WORK AND DO NOT CONSIDER CHANGING IT. WE ARE PROFESSIONAL MUSICIANS AND MUSIC IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN OUR LIVES.

"OUR DECISION (TO DEFECT) WAS HARDENED OVER A LONG TIME OF MANY OBSERVATIONS (OF LIFE IN RUSSIA) AND WE DID NOT GO TO THE U.S. EMBASSY ON THE SPUR OF A MOMENT--WE MADE OUR DECISION A LONG TIME AGO. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GO ON LIVING IN RUSSIA ONLY ON THE PROMISE THAT THINGS WILL BE BETTER SOME TIME."

TWENTY-EIGHT OTHER MUSICIANS OF THE BOLSHOI VARIETY TROUPE WHO CAME TO JAPAN WITH THE DEFECTORS GAVE THEIR FINAL TOKYO PERFORMANCE SUNDAY NIGHT. THE TROUPE LEAVES MONDAY FOR A TOUR OF NORTHERN JAPAN BEFORE RETURNING TO THE SOVIET UNION AUG. 27.

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