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2 Defecting Soviet Musicians Arrive in West Germany



Associated Press Cablephoto

Igor Berecshtis, left, and Boris Midney at Copenhagen airport upon arrival from Tokyo

Special to The New York Times

BONN, Aug. 17—Two Soviet jazz musicians who defected from a touring variety group in Tokyo last week and asked for admittance to the United States arrived in Frankfurt today. American officials took them to an undisclosed destination.

The two, Boris Midney, 27 years old, and Igor Berecshtis, 31, were flown out of Japan last night. During a four-hour

stopover in Copenhagen they said they wanted to go to the United States and join a band or become students of classical music.

Special to The New York Times

TOKYO, Aug. 17—Japanese Government officials and United States diplomats breathed easier today after the smooth and speedy departure last night of the two defecting Soviet musicians.

The case, the second involv-

ing Soviet defectors in Japan since World War II, had delicate overtones. Though the musicians are not important figures, it is felt that the handling of their request for refuge here may provide a legal precedent for persons of greater renown who may defect during the Olympic Games in October.

Hundreds of leading athletes and officials from Communist countries will be in Tokyo.