

B/MP
VI-R/2/2926
19 DecCZECHOSLOVAKIACOMMUNICATIONS

Railways

BORDER ZONES

Military

Security measures

PS

Traffic

EXILE

Possibility of Emigration

JOURNEY FROM PRAGUE TO NAPLES

SOURCE ROME : VLOSOVÁ Eva who left PRAGUE on 15 November 1952 to emigrate to Israel. Mrs. VLOSOVÁ is 52 years old and the widow of the late director of the Insurance Company of BRATISLAVA. Her husband died in the OSWIECIM concentration camp in 1945. She and her daughter managed to survive in the camp and to return to Czechoslovakia. Mrs. VLOSOVÁ's daughter is already living in Israel. Mrs. VLOSOVÁ is an intelligent woman, she graduated from the secondary school /gymnasium/ in VIENNA, and she speaks perfect English, German, Hungarian, and, of course, Czechoslovakian. On 22 November 1952 she left NAPLES for Israel.

DATE OF OBSERVATION : November 1952.

EVAL. COMMENT : A very realistic description of the customs proceedings at the border crossing-point. This item conforms with previous information.

Our source is one of the lucky persons who managed to obtain a passport and Czech exit visa to emigrate to Israel. She left PRAGUE together with the SALZER family who were arrested by the Czech police during the trip. Our source bought a second class railway ticket from PRAGUE to NAPLES, paying in Czech crowns as the Czech Bank had granted her permission to do so. She also got permission to take four Pound Sterling with her. Before her departure she was given a list of items, which she was allowed to take out of the country. This list was issued by the Czech Customs Office, and it warned the person concerned that in case he was found to have objects in his luggage which were not included in the list, his passport would be withdrawn from him. The list even determined

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how much foodstuffs the passenger was allowed to take with him for a period of two days.

Our source travelled in the same compartment with an employee of the Austrian Legation in PRAGUE who was travelling as a diplomatic courier. The customs official treated this lady more politely than the other passengers. At the Czechoslovak-Austrian frontier three officers mounted the train. Two belonged to the customs authorities and wore uniforms and the other one was a plainclothes Secret Security agent. Our source had a doll among her luggage, and upon seeing it, one of the customs officers immediately asked her whether this toy was included in the list of items allowed to take out of Czechoslovakia. Our source answered that it was not included in this list, but since she still had a bit of money before her departure she had decided to spend it on the doll. The customs officer did, however, not agree to her taking the toy out of the country without a special permit and so he confiscated the doll. All the luggage of the passengers was checked very thoroughly. No body searches of the passengers were made. The Austrian customs formalities were performed very quickly and the Austrian officials were very kind and polite. All of them, including the customs officials asked our source how she had managed to leave Czechoslovakia. When they actually reached the border, the Austrian railway employee called our source and the other lady in her compartment to show them what the frontier looked like. The entire border-line is marked off with a high barber wire fence, interrupted only by the railway tracks. Czech soldiers are seen on duty near the barber wire fence, which is more than two meters high. The frontiers controls are carried out in BRECLAV. The whole station as well as the train itself is surrounded by police guards. Nobody is allowed to leave the train. The Austrian conductor told our source that ever since the famous escape of a Czech machinist every Czech train approaching the Austrian border is escorted by a special police agent who travels on the engine.