

AUSTRIA CAPITULATES
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ed to come through Vienna. Kreisky also noted that Austria believed that sooner or later it would have had to restrict facilities for Jewish emigrants.

The incident began in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, 40 miles from Vienna, when the two Arab terrorists boarded the Moscow-Vienna express train. As two Austrian customs officials entered their compartment at the Austrian border town of Marchegg, the two terrorists opened fire wounding a Czech train engineer.

According to eye witnesses, the Arabs grabbed five of the 37 Soviet Jews aboard the train, but a young woman, Mrs. David Czaplík, and her child managed to escape. Taking three Soviet Jews, Chaim Baransky, 71, and his wife, Jelka, 68, and David Czaplík, 26, and the Austrian customs official, Franz Bobits, 60, the two Arabs used a Volkswagen bus to get to Vienna's Shzechat Airport.

All flights were cancelled as negotiations went on for hours led by Austrian Security Chief Oswald Peterlunger, assisted by two psychiatrists. After an emergency session of the Austrian Cabinet, the two Arabs were given a two-engine sportsplane and two Austrian pilots. After landing in Sardinia, the terrorists were initially denied sanctuary by Algeria, Libya and Tunisia, the only Arab countries within the plane's range. They eventually were allowed to fly to Libya after Malta had offered to accept them. The terrorists were identified as Mustafa Soueidan, 25, and Mahmoud Khladi, 27. Khladi is registered in Austrian Political Police files as a member of El Fatah and has participated in several terrorist attacks.

Some Soviet Jews arriving in Tel Aviv after the incident expressed the view that the hijacking was a Communist provocation. According to the emigrants, Mrs. Czaplík told them that two Russian women in the compartment said to the Jews, "Why go to Israel? Why are you looking for trouble?"

ISRAEL IN EMERGENCY SESSION

JERUSALEM (WNS)—The Israeli government, after recalling its Ambassador to Austria from Vienna, demanded that Austria revoke its decision to close the Jewish Agency's transit camp for Soviet Jewish emigrants.

The demand was issued in a communique after an emergency Cabinet session. The communique charged that the Austrian government's "surrender to the terrorist demands is the encouragement for continuation of acts of extortion and violence and a dangerous burden on Jews' right of passage."

The Israeli communique did express 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 ended.

The Knesset is scheduled to meet in emergency session to discuss the issue. The Israeli Ambassador Yitzhak Patish on arriving at Lod Airport hinted that the Austrian government may have shifted its position. He was reportedly later criticized by the Cabinet for his optimistic statements.

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US JEWISH LEADERS DENOUNCE MOVE BY AUSTRIA

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Jewish leaders in the United States and Europe denounced Austria's decision to close facilities for Jews enroute to Israel while at the same time urging Austria to rescind it.

Jacob Stein, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, and Richard Maass, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, sent telegrams to Arno Halusa, Austria's Ambassador to the U.S. declaring: "This yielding to the blackmail of Arab terrorists is immoral and unbecoming to a sovereign state. 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..."

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 have it reverse its decision.

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

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."

Rabbi Israel Miller, president of the American Zionist Federation, in a telegram to the Austrian Ambassador urged him to "make known to your government the deep sense of indignation and outrage we feel at the capitulation of the Austrian government."

In another telegram to the Austrian Ambassador, David M. Blumber, president of B'nai B'rith urged that Austria reverse its "inexplicable decision" and 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."

Hundreds of persons participated in demonstrations outside the Austrian Consulate here.

In London, the Board of Deputies of British Jews sent a telegram to Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky expressing dismay over the decision and requesting him "to retract statements made under the threat of bloodshed."

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress also cabled Kreisky expressing his regret at the decision and expressing the hope it would be rescinded. Goldman noted that providing assistance to migrants "is one of the most elementary of humanitarian duties."

Simon Wiesenthal, director of the Jewish Documentation Center in Vienna, said the Austrian action would only lead to more terrorism. He called the promise to close Schoenau, "A direct violation of the United Nations convention on refugees."

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