

X (H) - REFUGEES RETURN TO AUSTRIA

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DISPLACED HUNGARIAN REFUGEES RETURN TO AUSTRIA

On 4 October 1957 280 Hungarian refugees arrived in Holland on board the Italian passenger ship 'Irpinnia'. These Hungarians, men, women and children, escaped from Hungary in October 1956 and were sent from Austria to the Dominican Republic.

It was impossible to speak to the refugees at the harbor as it was strongly guarded and unauthorized persons were forbidden to contact them. On the way from the harbor to the train which was to take them to Austria a correspondent had the opportunity of talking to one of the Hungarians. He said that life was unbearable in the Dominican Republic. "We had to work on the fields in broiling heat and live in wooden shacks with straw roofs. The only facilities for cooking was a primitive fire and we began to feel like white slaves."

The refugees boarded the ship 'Irpinnia' at the Dominican capital, CIUDAD TRUJILLO, under police supervision and travelled tourist class with 800 negroes who were travelling to England.

The Hungarians have sent a petition to the UNO asking to be allowed to emigrate to Canada and have explained that they have left the Dominican Republic for political and climatic reasons. Before emigrating to any other country they must first return to Austria to retain their status as emigrants.

The First Steward of the 'Irpinnia' said that the Hungarians had been exemplary passengers. They were unable and unwilling to work like slaves in a western land under bad climatic conditions and to live with primitive colored people.

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