

Refugees Set Foot on Free Soil



HEADING FOR NEW HOMES. —Some of the 60 Hungarian refugees flown into the United States walk away from plane that landed at
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an air base near Ft. Dix, N.J. They will be given shelter at Camp Mercy, N.J., until they are placed in their new homes in America.

(P) Wirephoto

First of Refugee Arrivals Given Heroes' Welcome

Secretary of Army Heads Party Greeting 60 Hungarians Reaching Camp Kilmer

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CAMP KILMER, N.J., Nov. 21 (U.P.)—The first refugees from Soviet terrorism in Hungary flew through freedom's gates today to the kind of welcome Americans reserve only for heroes.

Sixty Hungarians, the vanguard of 5000 refugees from Soviet Communism, arrived on U.S. soil as 20th century pilgrims.

On hand to greet the proud but threadbare little band that arrived at McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., were Secretary of the Army Brucker, several generals, the Governor of New Jersey and a representative of the President of the United States.

Brucker Tribute

Brucker brought tears to the eyes of some of the new arrivals and expressions of proud determination to the faces of others when he praised them for their bravery in fleeing from their homelands under Russian gunfire.

"Your magnificent example of courage in the face of terror has uplifted our face," Brucker told the group.

"I show you the Flag of the United States and ask

you, for the first time on free soil, to applaud the Flag of our country—your first act here," Brucker said.

Flag Applauded

The refugees, standing before the speakers platform, applauded enthusiastically. One man with a baby cradled in one arm waved his hat above his head with the other.

In the group were men, women, children and two babes in arms. Few of the refugees had any belongings except what they wore on their backs. There was no baggage in the airplanes' cargo compartments.

Some of the Hungarians carried their belongings in little flight bags. One man clutched a bundle of two blankets as though his life depended on them. Another walked with his head held high and his hands empty.

Most of the women wore heavy stockings and flat-

heeled walking shoes—the shoes they had on when they walked out of Hungary.

Miksa Frankl still wore the trolley conductor's uniform he had on the day he went home for his wife Elizabeth for their flight from Hungary.

Although weary from their flight to the West, which began 39 hours before at Vienna, most of the refugees looked proud when they stepped from the Flying Tiger DC-4 which launched the U.S. Freedom Airlift for the refugees from Communism.

One man wept unashamedly when he stepped on American soil for the first time and he never stopped sobbing during the entire welcoming ceremony, which included a band rendition of

Hungarian music, prayers and the speech of welcome by Brucker.

Suffering Shared

"Americans have shared your pain, as we will always share with every captive of despotism the galling cruelty of his chains," Brucker said. "We know that what happens to our fellow men in other parts of the world, in the broad sense, is happening to us here in the United States, for humanity is indivisible.

"... Every blow struck at any free nation is struck at all... the Stars and Stripes floating here today is the flag not only of America, but of all humanity... America considers it a high privilege to offer you peace and tran-

quility at your journey's end."

The big four-engine plane landed at McGuire and within 25 minutes the refugees were on their way to Camp Kilmer for a welcome as American as apple pie.

Their greeting was complete with a brass band, coffee and doughnuts, disposable diapers, Yo-yos, chewing gum, nylon stockings, ice cream sodas, movies and television.

Pork chops were the main dish at the first meal served the new immigrants at their premature Thanksgiving dinner.

Among those in the group was 16-year-old Imre Haedics, crippled since birth who was pushed across the Iron Curtain into Austria in his wheel chair, and the Rev

Imre Gabor, who arrived here with only a Bible, a Testament and the clothes he wore.

There also was a Roman Catholic priest, the Rev. Josef Mate, who plans to join two uncles, Michael and Josef Drab, at Cleveland.

To Join Relatives

Frankl and his wife will live with relatives in New York City and the Haedics will be resettled by the Catholic relief services.

Today's flight, under charter to the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration, is just the first of many. Another plane will bring 70 more Hungarians here in time for Thanksgiving dinner and all the trimmings tomorrow.