

KK
May 25
IX-4933

HUNGARY

<u>EXILE</u>	/1200/
<u>Possibilities of emigration</u>	/1205/
<u>TRADE</u>	/3300/
<u>Prior</u>	/3307/

HOW TO GET A TOURIST VISA TO HUNGARY

SOURCE VIENNA: Recent visitor to Hungary.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Current period.

EVALUATION COMMENT: In line with the known procedure of obtaining visitor's visas to Hungary. The prices are correctly cited.

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The present procedure for Austrians wishing to pay tourist visits to Hungary is as follows: Applications must be filed with IBUSZ, the Hungarian travel office in the Kärntnerstrasse VIENNA, four weeks in advance of the date of the intended visit. One week before this date, passports must be handed in to IBUSZ. Three or four days before the planned departure, IBUSZ notifies the applicant whether a visa will be granted or not.

Source had applied for a weekend visa on two occasions. On the first occasion, a few months ago, it was refused. Later he repeated the application, and this time it was granted. He left by motorbus on a Saturday morning, arriving in BUDAPEST around 1:30 p.m. His visa was made valid until midnight on Monday.

On arrival at the frontier, passports and serial numbers of applications and visas were carefully checked while passengers remained in the bus. The cost of the trip, which included lunch and dinner in BUDAPEST on Sunday and breakfast and lunch on Monday, was 30 Austrian schillings.

/over/

For a stay at a cheaper hotel, the inclusive charge was 355 schillings; both hotels were equally shabby and neglected. Source paid the 390 schillings and was lodged in the "Palace Hotel."

His visit was just prior to the recent price reductions. He noted the following figures for wages, furnished by a relative who was a "compulsory" Party member, and prices, the result of his own random observation. This relative was paid 1,400 forint a month, of which his takehome pay was 1,140. A bus conductor earns on an average 1,000 forint /less deductions./

A decent pair of shoes which would cost 250 to 300 schillings in VIENNA cost in BUDAPEST 500 to 600 forint, or about a fortnight's wages. A wristwatch costing 300 schillings in VIENNA costs 1,200 forint in BUDAPEST. A men's suit of reasonable quality costs 2,000 to 2,200 forint.

End.