



Speeding Car Crash Leaves Four Dead

New York—A speeding car missed a turn at a Brooklyn Bridge exit early today. The dead were identified as Tomas Gomez, 30, the owner and driver of the car, Anna Montano, 21, Eliezer Tascano, 21, of Brooklyn, and Luis Curra Trigo, whose address was not known.

The critically injured was identified at Beekman Downtown hospital as Jose Luis Bruel, about 45.

Police Use Clubs To Quell Rioters

Blantyre, Nyasaland—Police used clubs and tear gas Sunday night to break up angry native mobs which surged through the streets of the city, injuring more than 60 persons in a new outbreak of violence.

So far as was known, all of the casualties were Negroes.

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MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

All Travel in Russia Said Handled Through Intourist, Official Government Agency

Just what awaits the American or other foreign tourist in the Soviet Union, which now is encouraging more visitors? In this dispatch, a seasoned traveler in the USSR, a veteran travel executive, provides guides from his own experience.

By ROBERT W. HEMPHILL
Immediate Past President
American Society of
Travel Agents
Written for UPI

Traveling in the USSR is entirely different from any other part of the world: this is the most common and general comment by foreign travelers. Let me explain it.

One of the first surprises for the foreign visitor is the realization that there is no private or individual travel business and that all international travel must be handled through and by Intourist—the official government organization.

Complete freedom of travel as we know it is impossible either for Soviet citizens or foreign travelers. USSR subjects are seldom given permission to travel abroad except in government interest and consequently know nothing about travel conditions and accommodations in the Western world. Intourist, however, authorizing an increasing number of responsible travel agencies in the United States to handle arrangements and act as their agents.

Must OK Itinerary

Foreign tourists wishing to travel to or through the USSR cannot obtain a visa from the Soviet Embassy until their proposed itinerary is approved, the accommodations, confirmed by Intourist and full payment made in advance. The visa outlines clearly the places and cities which are included in the itinerary. American tourists who are accustomed to making frequent changes of plans and schedules on the spot find this discouraging, difficult and often impossible.

This confirmation and cash in advance plan does have the advantage for Intourist of permitting a very tight and

efficient control of operation. It also assures the tourist of having definite accommodations and of knowing the exact cost in advance with no hidden and unexpected extras.

This prepayment also includes transfers of person and baggage, interpreter and guide service for arrivals and departures, meals at specified hotels and restaurants and sightseeing with English-speaking guides in regions where little English is spoken or understood except by the employees of Intourist. It can also readily be understood that it would be very bad publicity to accept casual and unexpected tourists in places where there is insufficient or unsatisfactory accommodations.

Three years ago I spent 25 days in the USSR and traveled nearly 2,500 miles through Russia, the Ukraine, across the Black Sea and into the Caucasus. I met no tourists at that time. It was winter and travel was uncomfortable and inconvenient because of snow, cold weather and poor accommodations.

Last October I again entered the Soviet Union and traveled through the south-central Asian states of Uzbek, Tadzhik, Kirghaz and Kazakh and visited the ancient and fabulous cities of Bukhara, Samarkand, Tashkent and Alma Ata. This new route which can now be incorporated in any around-the-world itinerary, was made possible a few months ago by a bilateral agreement between Air India International and Soviet Aeroflot. Air India International uses Super Constellations and Aeroflot flies TU 104 jets alternately over this 3,000 mile route with one stop at Tashkent, the capital of the state of Uzbek.

Monter Tashkent, with a million and a half population, is the great industrial and commercial city of Central Asia with rail, highway and air routes leading in all directions. It appears to be about 70 per cent modern European with tree-lined streets, a big university, large public buildings, parks and amusement facilities and an athletic stadium seating 70,000.

The new and impressive-looking Tashkent Hotel has four stories, an elevator and over 200 rooms, most of which have bath and toilet facilities. Room furniture is heavy and cumbersome. Bath and toilet facilities are old fashioned in design and are not up to Western standards. I have always found beds in Soviet hotels to be excellent. Like others in northern Europe they have big pillows and puffy comforters for covering.

First class and deluxe bed-

rooms in USSR hotels almost always include small living rooms which are invariably furnished with large heavy office-sized desks and center tables covered with dark covers of red, green or blue.

Food is much more abundant than three years ago and people are better dressed throughout the Soviet Union. They appear to be contented probably because they are better off than their parents and know no other life for comparison. I even noticed waitresses wearing white blouses, earrings and lipstick in several of the better hotels, restaurants and even on the dining car of the train from Samarkand to Tashkent. Businessmen in the cities are much better dressed and wear white shirts—which was not done three years ago.

There is very little evidence of tipping. The idea is discouraged as not being in keeping with the Communist way of life.

There is evidence, however, that the Soviet Union is beginning to recognize that "its economy cannot develop and exist properly without the categories of commodity value, money, price, profit and incentive." I found this and many similar admissions in their propaganda magazine "New Times," which is printed in many languages and distributed on trains, planes, stations, hotels and ships.

Modernization Evidenced

In old Bukhara, Samarkand and Alma Ata there is evidence of modernization and preparation for the development of tourism. New hotels are being constructed for occupancy this year, package

tours are being set up by Intourist through south-central Asia for limited groups of travelers.

Moscow, too, has doubled and tripled its hotel accommodations for tourists. V. M. Ankudinov, Chairman of the Board of Intourist, told me of plans to open motor travel between Moscow and the Crimean region of the Black Sea with alternate routings via Kiev, Minsk and Leningrad. Certainly normal, well-be-

haved American tourists need have no apprehensions about traveling through the USSR. The welcome they receive is genuine and friendly. The facilities and accommodations are comfortable, and in most cases satisfactory. For any thoughtful person, a well planned trip through the Soviet Union should be a stimulating, unusual and rewarding experience.

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