

Australia: Airport drama of Mrs Petrova

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Canberra: Around the Soviet Embassy unfolds an incredible story that has made world headlines. It began when Vladimir Petrov, Third Secretary at the Embassy, sought political asylum in Australia, ~~after giving details of~~ ^{THE PETROV HOME} ~~IN CANBERRA WAS SILENT.~~

A few days later, angry crowds demonstrated at Sydney Airport, when Mrs Petrova (who had been detained in protective custody at the Embassy) was ~~to be taken back to~~ ^{TO BE TAKEN BACK TO} Russia. And airport security police manned fire hoses. On the tarmac, Embassy officials gathered to ~~watch~~ ^{ENSURE} the departure of Mrs Petrova, who had been told that her husband had been kidnapped by the Australian authorities.

And the world saw these pictures of Mrs Petrova being escorted, indeed almost carried, to the plane by two couriers who had come specially from Russia to escort her. Graphic pictures, taken in the uncertain flicker of arc lamps, show the fury of the crowd as they tried to prevent Mrs Petrova from ~~leaving~~ ^{BEING TAKEN AWAY.} ~~leaving~~ ^{SOUND} CROWDS FURIOUSLY TOOK AT THE ESCORT AS MRS PETROV IS PUSHED UP THE GANGWAY. Once the crowd pulled the gangway from the plane as the couriers tried to enter. And once inside the plane, Mrs Petrova was not ^{even} allowed to retrieve a shoe that she lost in the struggle.

Finally, amid angry scenes the plane taxied off...to Darwin...for the final act of the drama. Here, Mrs Petrova (after speaking by telephone to her husband) ~~decided to stay in Australia. & they were~~ ^{REUNITED} accepted political asylum, and was later, reunited with her husband. ^{REUNITED} SPOKE TO HER HUSBAND BY TELEPHONE, AND THEY WERE LATER REUNITED.