

MAGAZINE REPORTS W. BERLINERS' ATTEMPT TO AID REFUGEES

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[Text] The Budapest picture magazine LOBOGO carries some details about two West Berlin residents, Christa Goerke and Peter Strauch, who intended to smuggle people across the border but lost out.

The paper says Peter Strauch and Christa Goerke were commissioned by a certain Klaus Lindner, heading a large-scale band of smugglers. Strauch and Goerke came to Hungary to arrange the smuggling of two young women from the GDR to the West. Lindner's idea of putting into practice the scheme was to send Christa Goerke to Hungary with a false passport, in which the photo could be switched to another one. Goerke had to ask for a visa valid for a 5 days' stay in Hungary.

The following day she was to go down to Gyor (West Hungary), where Peter Strauch was expected to meet Goerke at the railway station with a car. The car contained a hiding place for another person. Christa Goerke would have ridden in the car's hidden place, having a stamped passport. Lindner was of the view when a client pays thousands, he should not ride in a hidden place. He supplies clients with passports and makes them feel the sham passport is so perfect that the border guards won't notice.

Christa Goerke left for Budapest on November 22, 1973, with a passport under the name of Christiance Naite but with an original passport photo. In the meantime, Peter Strauch also rode to Gyor in his own car but did not meet Goerke the following day. What actually happened was that the border guard at Ferihegy airport began to suspect something was wrong with Goerke's passport. An investigation proved the guard right. The woman tried to lie her way out but soon knew she was a loser. She is charged with smuggling people across the border and she will be tried by the capital's municipal court, the periodical LOBOGO says.

After the fiasco Peter Strauch returned to Vienna unaware of the cause of the failure of the action. He, too was caught when he made a return to Hungary.