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CONVOY TO FREEDOM



From Daily Mail Reporter
ANNA PUKAS, with the East
German refugees in Hungary

SEVEN THOUSAND East German refugees launched their freedom caravan last night.

They wept for joy as Hungary gave the go-ahead for the biggest exodus from the Soviet bloc since the Berlin Wall went up in 1961.

I was at one of the three transit camps around Budapest when it was announced that border restrictions with Austria would be lifted from midnight.

And when I left the camp in my rented car, an East German family were with me bound for a new life in West Germany. They had achieved the goal for which they risked everything — escape from the misery of Erich Honecker's hardline Communist regime.

Dream

We watched on a flickering TV at the Zuglget camp as Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn announced that the border was being opened temporarily to allow out the East German refugees. He added that any of the estimated 60,000 East Germans on holiday in Hungary would also be able to leave.

As he spoke, two East German men beside me swept me up in their arms, tears streaming down their faces. All around me men and women wept unashamedly as stranger hugged stranger.

A couple I had made friends with, Alfreid and Brigitta from Dresden, were beside themselves with joy as they kissed each other and me repeatedly, exclaiming: 'It's unbelievable, it's impossible to take in. This is a dream of heaven.'

Horn said Hungary was temporarily opening its border to allow out the East German refugees waiting in overcrowded camps. At this point, two youths and their girlfriends were already running out of the camp carrying their rucksacks. Crowds cheered them on. Everywhere car doors slammed

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'BLUE LAGOON' COUPLE COME HOME



Back to the green, green grass of home: Martin and Rachel

Picture DAVE CRUMP

THE rain-soaked grass beneath their feet brought joy to Rachel Stevens and Martin Poplewell yesterday.

The two 19-year-olds were back in Britain after an amazing two-month adventure on a desert island, 11,000 miles away in the Western Pacific.

Through days of blazing sun and nights of tropical storms, the two student castaways from Cambridgeshire survived on their

wits and resilience testing themselves to breaking point with none of the trappings of civilisation. They had to struggle against illness to gather fresh water and enough to eat to keep alive.

And Rachel's first thought after landing at Gatwick was food. 'I'm so hungry I could eat anything — except coconuts,' she declared heading for the sweet shop. 'But I think the mental

side of living in isolation was worse than the physical. When I left the island I realised what a strain it had been, and how it had changed me.'

Martin was inspired to plan his adventure after seeing the film *Blue Lagoon*. He asked ex-classmate Rachel to join him after his first companion dropped out. 'Our friendship has survived and grown, despite the rough patches we went through,' he said.

Rolls to axe the



Royal Rolls-Royce

royal Phantom

By MICHAEL KEMP
Motoring Correspondent

THE QUEEN may be forced to buy German limousines instead of British models.

Rolls-Royce and Jaguar are to stop making State cars for royalty and Mercedes-Benz is poised to supply them instead.

The Royal Family has had a policy of buying British cars for 85 years. Now all that is likely to end.

The two British firms will announce tomorrow that they are phasing out production of their biggest cars for economic reasons.

Neither can afford the cost of about £500million to design and develop car bodies to update their models in line with stricter EC safety rules.

Hijack

Both the Queen and Queen Mother have a Rolls-Royce Phantom. But R-R said last night: 'No more orders can be taken for the Phantom VI. When current orders have been completed it will be the end of an era. We cannot meet the cost of redeveloping a car to sell only a few a year. The sale price would be too high.'

The final model is likely to be made next year or early in 1991.

Jaguar in Coventry is ending production of its £41,000 Daimler limousine, also a royal car used for State occasions. An official said: 'It is ending in the early 90s. Jaguar had no plans for a replacement, he added.'

Mercedes-Benz is about to unveil a new \$75,000-£90,000 diplomat's car with hijack protection and an offer will be made to the Queen next year.

The German firm said: 'We'll be very pleased to supply a car to the Queen, built to her requirements.'

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IN THE DAILY MAIL TOMORROW