

Ike Greet Refugee Family Who Braved Red Gunfire

United Press

President Eisenhower yesterday extended a warm and personal welcome from the United States to a Hungarian family that broke through the Iron Curtain under the fire of a Communist border guard.

Mr. Eisenhower listened in amazed admiration as Geza and Gisella Kapus and their daughter Eva, 6, told how they escaped after the attractive woman lost a foot in a land mine explosion last year.

"I'm delighted to welcome you to this country," the President said quietly, "and I hope what you will find here will reimburse you for what you have gone through."

The Kapuses were the first persons granted visas under the new Refugee Relief Act. Kapus, will be assistant manager of a motel at Midland, Tex.

Mrs. Kapus, who speaks excellent English, sat in her wheel chair and related their ordeal in low, almost matter-of-fact tones.

She said they were within 50 feet of the Austrian border when she stepped on a land mine and her left foot was blown off. Kapus threw Eva over a barbed-wire fence into Austrian territory and then dragged his wife to safety as a Hungarian border guard opened fire.

"I hope you grow to love this country," said Mr. Eisenhower. "I hope you like Texas because I was born there."

The Kapuses were brought to this country under the refugee program of the Foreign Operations Administration, in cooperation with the National Catholic Welfare Conference, which sponsored the family and paid there passage.

Mrs. Dorothy D. Houghton, as-

sistant director of FOA, said Mrs. Kapus had told her she "would rather have one leg in America than two in Communist Hungary."

[According to International News Service, Mrs. Kapus told newsmen: "The people over there (behind the Iron Curtain) have so much hope and faith in America and especially in President Eisenhower—that he is going to help them somehow and find a way to relieve them of the captivity and tyranny they are living in now."]

After their White House visit, Mr. and Mrs. Kapus and Eva went on to luncheon at the Hotel Hay Adams, where their hostess was Mrs. Houghton. Other guests included Ezekiel Glazier and Roger Williams of the FOA's U. S. Escapee Program; Scott McLeod and Antonio Micocci of the State Department; Maxwell M. Rabb, Cabinet Secretary and Associate Counsel to the President, and Monsignor Aloysius J. Wycislo and Mrs. Margaret Littke of the National Catholic Welfare Conference.