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INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Russian Diplomats Push Railway Handcar Home from North Korea

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Eight Russian Embassy employees and their families made their way home Thursday with the help of a railroad handcar loaded with luggage and children. **Russian Foreign Ministry**

Russian diplomats and their family members returning from North Korea were forced to push a handcar with their belongings over the border as the reclusive country remained closed due to the coronavirus, the Russian Foreign Ministry said Thursday.

North Korea has not reported any Covid-19 cases more than a year into the global pandemic that has infected 113 million and killed 2.5 million people. Foreign diplomatic missions closed last spring and most employees, including 13 from Russia's Embassy in Pyongyang, were flown out of the country.

Embed:

Как заявили в МИД, дипломаты 32 часа ехали на поезде, затем еще два часа

> на автобусе до границы и затем — километр пешком с помощью дрезины.
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> ⛌⛌ https://t.co/jc6KmEOxhx
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> Видео: МИД России pic.twitter.com/K8UPWUrKev
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> — Новая Газета (@novaya_gazeta) February 25, 2021

Eight Russian Embassy employees and their families made their way home Thursday with the help of a railroad handcar loaded with luggage and children.

Their journey began with a 32-hour train ride out of Pyongyang, followed by a 2-hour bus ride to the Russian border, where Russia's Foreign Ministry said a crucial last leg awaited them.

"The most important part of the route was a pedestrian crossing to the Russian side. They needed to prepare a cart in advance, put it on rails, place the luggage, seat the children and set off," the ministry said.

Footage shared by the ministry showed the eight diplomats and family members, including Third Secretary Vladislav Sorokin and his 3-year-old daughter Varya, smiling as they slowly moved across the dry deserted landscape.

"They had to push the whole structure by rail for more than a kilometer, with the most crucial segment being the bridge across the Tumen River," the ministry said with an accompanying video of the cheering travelers.

The road-weary diplomats were met by colleagues at the border crossing and bussed to the Pacific port of Vladivostok, the ministry said in a social media post with the hashtag "We Don't Leave Our Own."

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