

Utzon flies out under a false name

Mr Joern Utzon and his family left Sydney yesterday travelling under false names. The Opera House architect's party by-passed customs and the outward passenger lounge at Sydney airport, and was whisked aboard a Qantas jet from a private entrance.

"Only prime ministers and dangerous prisoners usually get this VIP treatment," an airport officer said.



MR JOERN UTZON

Qantas officials said Mr Utzon requested the secret departure before he booked tickets for his wife, daughter and two sons earlier this week.

They said this procedure had been adopted for some VIPs, and it was known that the architect was upset over earlier publicity on the Opera House controversy.

Airport staff said the party was driven to the airliner waiting outside the passenger terminal about an hour before departure.

"Mr Utzon did not even go through customs but sent a representative," an airport officer said. "We knew he was going and were anxious to see him after all the recent publicity. But he was spirited aboard the plane. No one caught a glimpse of the party."

Mr Utzon is believed to have taken an incomplete set of plans for stage three of the Opera House with him.

Another set, which is being held by his solicitor in Sydney, will be handed over to the New South Wales Government when it makes a final payment of \$500,000.

A close architect friend of Mr Utzon said last night he understood the family was bound for Hawaii, where Mr Utzon had business commitments.

WOULD COME BACK

"We said our goodbyes to him at the private dinner on Tuesday given by the Utzon-in-Charge Committee," he said.

"I understand he left for Hawaii, but of course he's also committed to work in Saudi Arabia, Switzerland and Sweden.

"One thing he did stress when he said goodbye was that he would come back any time he was wanted as architect for the Opera House."

Overseas consultants on the Opera House will have talks with the Minister for Public Works, Mr Hughes, on Wednesday.

The overseas experts will later have discussions with the local panel of architects appointed to carry on the project in Mr Utzon's absence.

Among the consultants arriving are representatives of Ove Arup and Partners (structural engineers), Steensen and Varming of Copenhagen, (mechanical engineers), Professor Jordan of Copenhagen, (acoustics expert), Professor L. Cremer and Professor W. Gabler (both acoustics experts from Berlin), and Professor W. Umrh of Berlin (stage technique consultant).