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Aid to least developed nations urged

Sept 8: A forty of State resident, Mr. authority with s, which will tions for war" agreement with ab unity.

k", Mr. George pact extensively necessarily for rous stalemate. ng Egypt from e we have ful voice for side. Facing r. Sadat needs ay other Arab involved him tal settlement, en greatly en- aj withdrawal l of for con- sues elsewhere.

from their shock, states will accep- tions for war. ibly Jordan and

LONDON, September 8: India has proposed before the interparliamentary conference now in session here that in giving development aid special consideration should be given to most seriously affected and least developed countries, reports PTL.

The proposal was made in the form of an amendment to a resolution on world economic order which, among other things, calls upon industrialised countries to increase their public aid

which favourable to conditions of finance aid combined with opportunities.

The Indian amendment by Mr. C. M. S. reiterated the war Dakar conference tries that these countries should be invited to take the matter of aid of the world.

Mr. Stephen said that international economic and for developed countries. What is political will of and determined effort follow up the mission or relaxation

Mr. Stephen said fundamental restructuring of world economic order and fruitful operation on global better than ever.

US kidnapped children, says Madam Binh

MEXICO CITY, September 8: The Foreign Relations Minister, Madame Nuygen Thi Binh of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet Nam has accused the U.S. of kidnapping children

Philippin

Ms. Mag

9/1975

W e Were Strong Enough To Kill the Parents in Vietnam. Does That Make Us Good Enough To Raise the Orphans?

Our national grief at the thought of Vietnamese children who would be homeless after the American war seemed somehow more bearable during the war when all our know-how was being used in making orphans. There did exist a history of homeless children and their wars, which could have been helpful, but we paid little attention to it. It was indeed offered to the country during the "Babylift" last April, in public newspaper statements by social workers, historians, educators, religious leaders, and doctors, and in political street demonstrations on both coasts.

According to Joseph Reid of the Child Welfare League of America, there were 50,000 homeless children after the Nigerian Biafran War. The United States (and other countries) thought these children should be offered for adoption. The Nigerians and Biafrans would not permit it. With the help of the International Union for Child Welfare in Geneva, all but 27 of the children were reunited with family or village communities within two years.

Here is another lesson from

By Grace Paley

history: my friend Karin DiGia was a displaced child in Germany after the Second World War. That is, she was lost in one direction and her parents, if alive, were lost in another direction, far from home. Here, the Red Cross helped. It took a year and a half before Karin DiGia's living father was found and they were brought together. She was only one child among hundreds of thousands. Had she been adopted away into Italy or the United States or Japan in some well-meaning child consumers' project, her records filed and sealed, they would have never met; she would have become an orphan and he the father of a dead child.

Karin told me that the streets of German cities were full of pictures of children. "Have you seen this child, Anna Marie, she was wearing a blue smock, she wandered away from our camp..." Translated for Americans today, whose kind hearts and open purses intend to take Vietnamese children into the finality of adoption, there may well be pictures posted on the walls in Saigon or Danang, "Has anyone seen

Phuoung, last seen in a blue smock, she let go of my hand for a minute...."

In Vietnam there is a saying: "If Mother is lost, there is Auntie; if Father is lost, there is Uncle." The parentless child becomes the child of the large household, the village, old aunts who may not even be blood relatives, but who share the natural responsibility of all adults for all the young. This has already happened in North Vietnam, where there is only one "home" for orphans. This is happening now in South Vietnam—grown-up refugees and children in the tens of thousands are returning to their villages in what the Provisional Revolutionary Government called the "Campaign for the Return to the Homelands."

Well, how did the orphan airlift happen, then, considering these histories, these facts? I have to say it coldly. The war in Vietnam, which began in ignorance, self-congratulation, and the slaughter of innocents, ended in much the same way. The orphan airlift last April was a balloon of sentiment that raised some 2,600 Vietnamese children and floated them across 12,000 miles of sky. The groups most responsible for that sky of flying/dying babies were the following:

To Spike Time _____
Date _____

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

Mr. _____
of _____
Phone _____

Area Code	Number	Extension
TELEPHONED		
CALLED TO SEE YOU		PLEASE CALL
WANTS TO SEE YOU		WILL CALL AGAIN
RETURNED YOUR CALL		URGENT

Message Mr. Castagnoli
Sept 1975 - I'm
unemotional & I
am - you can imagine
how I reacted to
this? Can we really?
Please? Cher

In South Vietnam

Reprisals Against Dissidents Rising

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. intelligence reports indicate that repressive measures against dissidents in South Vietnam are more intense now than at any time since the Commu-

a "bloodbath" against anti-Communist dissidents. Soon after the collapse of the regime, American officials said they were surprised at the apparent tolerance of the new re-

ment had more massive problems than the Cambodian Communists in consolidating its power. This is partially attributable to the fact that South Vietnam's population is more

state, U.S. officials say the country largely is under North Vietnamese control. One official said there is little evidence that the Provisional Revolutionary Government of

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Lost day - Danie

the WELCOMER

"One Picture Is Worth One Thousand Words"



This issue of "The Welcomer" is dedicated to those very "special" people who rallied to the cause prior to the fall of Saigon. And to the literally hundreds of adoptive couples, friends, strangers, staff of Welcome House and whole communities who responded to our calls for help in caring for the 67 Vietnamese children until placed with their adoptive families. The roll call is far too long to include, much as we would have dearly loved to. People from New York [L.I.], Pennsylvania [Media], Delaware [Wilmington], New Jersey, Connecticut, Alaska, Washington, Washington, D.C., Texas, Massachusetts. We will never forget your efforts. They will live on in the lives of the children.

Dear Friends,

This brings you all, our greetings and best wishes.

Just before writing this letter I took out an old issue of 'The Welcomer', the special issue of November 1973 on Vietnam very kindly dedicated by you all to our work in Saigon on behalf of VACF. Thankfully, today VACF is an integral part of WHAPG. I tried to close my eyes and recollect all that had happened between then and now, a dream came through and a dream shattered.

The meeting between Miss Mary Graves, Mrs. Alberta Cohen and myself in the late spring of 1973 in a friend's apartment in NY is still very vivid in my memory. The outcome of the meeting was HOPE, life and a future for a number of unfortunate little people. Miss Graves and Mrs. Cohen were God sent, in answer to my prayers, as were each and everyone of you, who with your noble dedication, concern and love for children helped us sustain what were rated as the two best children's homes in Saigon, and by your un-selfish and tireless efforts, bring safety and a secure future for 85 children to England [6], Holland [6] and the USA [73].

I said, "a dream shattered", yes, in the spring of 1973, it was a beautiful dream come true and in the spring of 1975, it was shattered to pieces. To witness the whole thing collapsing like a house of cards was heart breaking.

After my meeting with Miss Graves and Mrs. Cohen I returned to Saigon to get the HOPE home off the ground and the first home, HOPE I, was born in the summer of 1973 with 17 children in residence on the first day. It was a normal summer day in Saigon; the temperature in the higher nineties, atmosphere saturated with exhaust fumes, humidity in the 80 and 90%. The seventeen children, 15 of them mixed blood, came within the gates of Hope I with their few earthly possessions clutched in their tiny hands. By the spring of 1974 HOPE II opened with over 200 children. Slowly and steadily the Hope family grew in size to 400 children by the spring of 1975. The motto was "Every child was the 'ONLY' child". It was a happy and closely knit family. Then it all started.

First, one province north east of Saigon fell after a month long battle and bloodshed in January, 1975. Then three provinces surrendered without a single shot being fired, but not without loss of life. Thousands of refugees, among them children, trying to flee occupied areas, died on the roadsides due to starvation, dehydration and exposure. By the second week in April, rockets and shells started coming into Saigon.

Life in Hope I & II became a 24 hour routine. Concerned mothers came in all the time, some begging that their children be evacuated to the US or any country for safety. Mostly they were mothers of mixed blood children. New children were brought families who wanted to out, pleaded to be evacuated. The telephone rang incessantly. It was either Mr. Charles Summers, Mr.

Brian Winsor of Alaska, Mr. David Seltzer of California or one of so many concerned friends who were terribly concerned about our safety. Yet, there was no way out. The only way out was if the US Government would provide us with a MAC flight, since all commercial flights stopped operating in and out of Saigon. Saigon's Tan Son Nhut airport was closed and heavily barricaded. The GVN wouldn't approve our list of children to be evacuated because we were not licensed to process children for overseas adoption, and the AID wouldn't help without GVN's approval. I was running from one agency to the other [who were privileged to take out children] but they couldn't help. They were backed up with some of their own children and the GVN wouldn't permit them either. By then 1,400 children had been evacuated under President Ford's 'Baby Lift' plan, so, no more. At the same time, we were aware that a score of our friends, here in the US mainland and in Alaska were doing everything in their power to get our children out. They made telephone calls to the department of State, Chief of staff and everyone they could think of. Yet, back in Saigon, as of April 27, all we could do was to pray and leave the rest in HIS merciful hands. Both Malini and myself vowed not to leave Saigon without the children. We were also aware, it was not only us, but so many of our friends in the US and other parts of the world who were praying for us. In a situation like that our only hope always seems to be the good Lord.

So it went on; the NVAS were moving closer to Saigon every day and by the 24th of April they had taken Xuan Loc, after bitter fighting, since the GVN tried to make a last minute stand and moved within one mile of the northern outskirts of Saigon

while their troops were within striking distance in the southeast, Bien Hoa. In Hope I & II we gave up hope of getting out and prepared for a siege and gathered enough food and other essentials to last us for over four months. The Vietnamese staff were wonderful, especially Mr. Nguyen Van Sau, the house manager and Miss Trieu, secretary, working round the clock attending to every need. The 67 children who became our total responsibility were unaware of what was going on, except to ask, "Uncle Victor, when I go America?", I didn't know if we were ever going to America!

Saigon streets became streets of panic and confusion. Everyone seemed to be wanting to get out. People I had never seen before came to Hope I to beg, plead and even threatened that I must somehow get them out. "You are an American agency, you can get me/us out." It was either "please get us out or if you don't I will kill you". Curfew hours were extended each day, from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. It came down to 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. People who came to Hope I could not get back to their homes before curfew. We had to shelter them and feed them, a round the clock affair.

Then God did work a miracle, the efforts of our friends did not go in vain. Barely 24 hours before the fall of Saigon, on April 28, the AID telephoned me and said "we are trying to get a plane today to get you, your wife and your children out, standby." After an hour they called again to say "at 14:30 the Embassy busses will come to pick you all up, stand by". Just three hours to prepare, we grabbed what we could and were ready by 14:15. The Embassy buses pulled up, few mothers who were present hugged and kissed their children goodbye. Closest friends were on hand to say

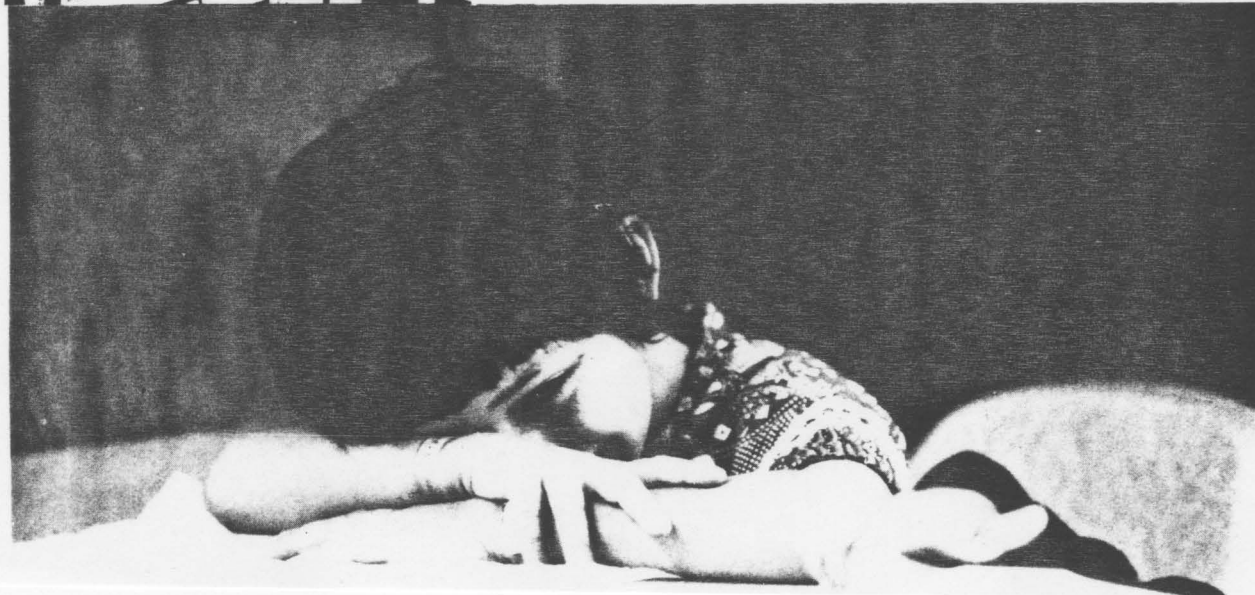


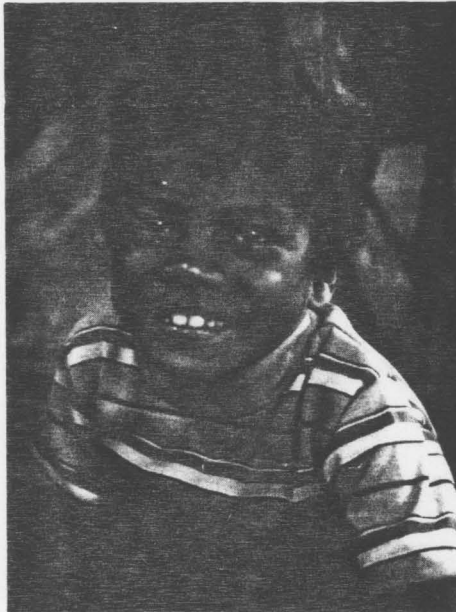


ACTION PLAN FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CHILD WELFARE AGENCY IN THE FAR EAST BY THE WELCOME HOUSE ADOPTIVE PARENTS GROUP, INC.

- A. Type of program to be established
1. Foster care (Sponsorship)
 2. Day Care
 3. Family Assistance
 4. Assistance to other child welfare agencies
 - a. Financial assistance to hire workers
 - b. Food, clothing, medical supplies
 5. Field training facilities for local social welfare students
 6. Adoption
- B. Criteria for selecting a country; we need to select a place which will be favorable in as many aspects as possible
1. Need
 2. A country which is friendly to the U.S., where an American agency will be welcomed, and allowed to operate with relatively little hindrance
 3. A country with a relatively stable government (areas where Communism has already gotten a foothold will not be conducive irrespective of need--could be another Saigon)
 4. Favorable tax structure; every cent we spend needs to be spent constructively to ensure providing child benefits, not to feed the coffers of the national government or the lower echelons
 5. Local conditions
 - a. Cooperation of local government
 - b. Cultural and religious sentiments regarding the programs functions; i.e., dietary restrictions, etc.
- C. Indonesia and Malaysia are in Victor's judgement two of the more likely places to start
- D. Procedure for fact finding and gathering background information about Indonesia and Thailand
1. Contact their embassies in Washington, D.C.; determine how completely they meet the criteria
 2. Contact U.S.A.I.D. in Washington, D.C.; determine if grants are available to American agencies in these countries
 3. Contact other institutions (universities, churches, etc.) that have existing programs in these countries; obtain such pertinent information they will share
 4. On the basis of the information thus gathered, go to the country selected as the better choice, complete fact-finding, negotiate a contract with its government, and start the program.
- E. Welcome House will be formally requested to help in the following ways
1. Allow Mary Graves to assist in the execution of the action plan
 2. Continue financial assistance
 3. Formalize a sister agency relationship with our fledging agency, and as such, assist in policy formulation
- F. *The Welcome House Board has formally decided to actively & fully participate in this exploratory & investigative phase.*

July 28, 1975





"THE WELCOMER"
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 THE WELCOME HOUSE ADOPTIVE
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 EDITOR: ALBERTA COHEN
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 ANNUAL DUES \$5.00
 (INCLUDES SUBSCRIP
 "THE WELCOMER")

Friends Of The Children of Vietnam
 600 Gilpin St.
 Denver, CO 80218

To the Board of Directors
 Welcome House Adoptive Parents Group, Inc.
 Doylestown, Pennsylvania 18901

Dear Board Members:

We have examined the balance sheet of the Welcome House Adoptive Parents Group, Inc. at March 31, 1975 and the related statement of receipts and disbursements for the year then ended. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and other auditing procedures considered necessary in the circumstances. Our examination of receipts was limited to amounts recorded as being received since it is impractical to apply other auditing procedures to solicited funds.

In our opinion, subject to the above limitation, the accompanying balance sheet and related statement of receipts and disbursements in excess of receipts for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with the prior year.

Respectfully submitted,

Sullivan, Booz & Co.

**WELCOME HOUSE ADOPTIVE PARENTS GROUP, INC.
 STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS & DISBURSEMENTS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1975**

RECEIPTS		
General Dues & Donations	\$ 6 316	
Vietnam Fund	31 568	
Interest Income	490	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$38 374
FUND DISBURSEMENTS		
Donations Vietnam American Children's Fund	\$21 472	
Newsletter	2 688	
Picnic Expense	2 257	
TOTAL FUND DISBURSEMENTS		26 417
NET CASH BEFORE OPERATING EXPENSES		\$11 957
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Advertising	\$ 6 540	
Printing & Stationery	1 469	
Travel	1 399	
Office Expense, Postage	1 093	
Telephone	822	
Legal & Accounting	775	
Publicity	343	
Insurance	326	
Medical Expense	209	
Registration Fees	100	
General Expense	60	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		13 136
NET DECREASE OR CASH RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS		(\$ 1 179)
TOTAL CASH APRIL 1, 1974		\$10 767
Less: Net Decrease in Cash		1 179
TOTAL CASH MARCH 31, 1975		\$ 9 588

WELCOME HOUSE ADOPTIVE PARENTS GROUP
 BOX 265
 DOYLESTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 18901

U.S. Postage Paid
 1 oz.
 Permit No. 182
 Reading, Pa.

FIRST CLASS

N

S. Viet Refugee-Ship Captain Hopeful--Long Way From Sea

By GLENN TROELSTRUP
Denver Post Staff Writer

When the 6,200-ton VN Thuong Tin left Guam in mid-October for Vietnam with 1,546 returning refugees aboard, it went without the captain who first agreed to command it.

Instead, 47-year-old Nguyen Truc—a veteran officer of the French and South Vietnamese navies—was quietly helping process products that day at Denver Seafoods, Inc., 3315 Walnut St.

"I'm like a fish on the sand now," he smiles.

NOT CERTAIN

Truc doesn't know whether he would have been received by the new Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG) in Saigon as a people's hero or a dangerous element.

He doesn't know if he would have found his wife and six children still in the middle-class home he owned in Saigon. Truc's heard nothing of or from them.

What he does know, and talks about without embarrassment, is the sadness, the loneliness of resettling without his family in a nation whose language he is struggling to master.

He also knows he's hailed by some 4,500 refugees now scattered throughout the United States and Canada for skipping them on an epic, weeklong voyage in a 1,000-ton, shallow-draft coastal freighter, the MV Anh Tuan, from Saigon port to Subic Bay in the Philippines six months ago.

LETTERS WRITTEN

Many of those refugees have traced him to Denver and written of their admiration for his courage and leadership at that time. One of them is the last mayor of Saigon, Do Kien Nhieu, a former brigadier general now resettled in Colorado Springs.

"I don't know the future," Truc said through a translator recently in the home of a friend. "I accept my situation and have left the repatriation matter behind me. My concern now is my new life. I'm happy to have gotten a job to support myself and not depend on my sponsor."

Truc spoke of eventually finding a job in the radio communications field or captaining a fishing vessel.

'WRONG PLACE'

"This is the wrong place to get work aboard a ship. I may have to go to a coastal city once I have enough saved up," he said. "But, so far, I have no contacts for such work."



Denver Post Photo by Ernie Leyba
FORMER VIETNAM NAVY CAPT. NGUYEN TRUC BY MAP
Refugee hero led 4,500 on weeklong voyage from Saigon to Philippines.

reversed gears and took on 4,500 refugees, intending to offload them on U.S. 7th Fleet ships standing by off the coast in international waters. There was no time to get his own family, trapped by a curfew.

SHORT ON FUEL

"I was afraid the ship would capsize," Truc recalled. "She was packed from fore to aft. We were short on fuel and carried only a little water and rice . . . But the American ships would us off

militant returnees demanded to leave for South Vietnam immediately. They ignored PRG warnings they wouldn't be accepted. Demonstrators burned tent buildings and assaulted Marine security guards.

MEETING CALLED

The distressed Truc called a meeting of returnees.

"I told them that if they would wait patiently until the ship is cleared for depart-

to port.

12-6-75



CALIFORNIA LAWSUIT

Airlift Children Face Return to Vietnam

By CHRIS WHITBECK
Denver Post Staff Writer

A Lakewood woman is appealing to those who adopted airlifted Vietnamese children to fight a California lawsuit which threatens to return some to Vietnam.

Mrs. Robert Summers of 1826 S. Welch Circle took in one child, Miki, now a little over a year old. She is urging support for Adoptive Parents of Airlift Children.

The California suit was filed in U.S. District Court in San Francisco by a New York-based group called the Center for Constitutional Rights. The lawsuit was brought in behalf of three children flown here on the airlift.

The suit alleges that the three children were brought here illegally — against the will of their parents. It seeks to represent all children brought on the airlift under similar circumstances and have them returned to Vietnam.

Neither the parents of the children or the adoptive agencies which handled their placements were named as defendants. The lawsuit named the U.S. secretary of state, the secretary of defense, the attorney general and other federal officials.

INTERVENORS IN SUIT

However, two adoptive agencies, Friends of All Children, and the Friends of the Children of Vietnam, have intervened.

"We don't think the vested interest of the children is being considered at all," protested Mrs. Summers. The plaintiffs, she said "would suggest we tore the children out of the arms of their loving parents. That's not true."

She noted that when Miki arrived last April the child weighed only 7 pounds, and suffered from severe malnutrition and pneumonia.

Last April, she said, parents were as-

sured by adoptive agencies that "Nobody's going to take your baby away."

"Now all of a sudden, they're saying, 'We're losing, and they might take your baby away'."

She noted that Wendy Grant, director of Friends For All Children, wrote parents last week, advising them that the suit is going poorly and suggesting they might want to find their own lawyers.

Mrs. Summers said a major problem is that confidentiality provisions in adoption laws prevent parents from obtaining the names of other parents.

Apparently "the courts in California have seen fit to hand over all our names to the plaintiffs," she said bitterly. "So they know who we are, but we don't know each other."

And, she added, "They have all the information they need on Miki."

Sarah Jane Cowen, attorney for Friends for All Children, confirmed that the case isn't going well.

FILES OPENED

She said the federal district court and federal appeals court in San Francisco have permitted the plaintiffs to see files on all children, with the proviso that the district court may issue appropriate protective orders removing irrelevant confidential material about the parents.

She also noted that the attorneys for the adoption agencies legally can't represent the parents.

All we can do for the parents, she said, is say, "see a lawyer. It's not much of an answer."

Mrs. Joanne Thompson, 7553 E. Costilla Blvd., Englewood, helping to organize Adoptive Parents of Airlift Children, said one of her primary concerns is the effect the suit will have upon all foreign adoptions.

"This ruling is going to scare people off."

Mrs. Summers said the goals of the new organization are "to hire our own attorney," to raise funds to fight the law suit; and to keep the parents informed of what happens in the suit.

If all fails, said Mrs. Thompson, the parents will at least have "other people to call on in case someone from immigration comes and tries to take our child away."

Mrs. Summers and Mrs. Thompson said anyone interested in joining the new

Lawyer blasts court delay on Babylift

By DAVID GREENBERG

News Staff

Hundreds of families wishing to adopt children brought to the United States in Operation Babylift have been kept in a legal state of limbo and risk having details of their private lives brought into open court, an attorney for a Denver-based adoption agency charged Tuesday.

Carl Eklund, lawyer for the Friends of Children in Vietnam, a volunteer group that brought 435 children into the country, said a suit filed in California is causing the problems.

Eklund and attorneys for another Colorado agency, Friends for All Children, are seeking to intervene in the suit in behalf of the affected families.

The suit was filed on April 30, 1975, in U.S. District Court for Northern California on behalf of three children brought to this country during Operation Babylift. Named as defendants were Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger, Atty. Gen. Edward Levi and other government and military officials.

The complaint charged the children were brought here "against their will and that of their Vietnamese parents or nearest of kin" and asked that efforts be made to reunite the children with their families in Vietnam.

The suit was submitted as a "class action," which means that it sought to represent all children brought to this country in Operation Babylift in violation of American, South Vietnamese or international law.

In order to determine which children fit the designated class, the suit asked that the "full and complete records of each and every Vietnamese child" be examined to determine if the child was properly brought into the country.

The suit is now in its eighth month, and has yet to go to trial on the real issues in the case. But according to Eklund it has caused considerable emotional distress to many families who fear they risk seeing their adoptive children deported.

That isn't an immediate prospect, but Eklund said he is disturbed by a recent court decision that ordered that U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service files be turned over to the plaintiffs so they can determine which children fall into the designated class.

The order was issued by the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals with the proviso that information not pertinent to the issue be screened from the files.

Included in these files, Eklund said, is intimate and personal information about the families wishing to adopt the children. The information originally was gathered under a promise of strict confidentiality. The files include information on marital relations within the families as well as financial disclosures and tax reports.

Eklund said a number of these files have already been turned over to the plaintiffs. He said that none of this information is pertinent to the case and was exactly the type of information

Baby Lift row touches Lakewood family



NEWS PHOTO BY JOHN GORDON

Susan Summers watches her 13-month-old child, Miki Hyvong, as she wonders whether he will be returned to Vietnam.

A Lakewood mother is one of hundreds throughout the country caught in an international dispute that may decide whether she can keep her Vietnamese child.

Mrs. Susan Summers' 13-month-old "adopted" child, Miki Hyvong, was brought to the United States from Vietnam eight months ago in Operation Baby Lift.

Whether the child is allowed to stay may depend on the outcome of a suit being argued now in San Francisco U.S. District Court.

Neither Miki nor his parents are named in the suit, even though the child's fate may rest on the outcome.

Miki, of course, is oblivious to the entire controversy. Last Friday, during the most recent hearing, he was sitting in his baby-tender in the living room, pensively munching a Cheerio.

"When Miki came here he was 6 months old and weighed 7 pounds. He had rickets and some other diseases," Mrs. Summers said. "No mother would have treated him that way," she said in stating her belief the child was an orphan.

Nevertheless, attorneys are arguing whether the babies were brought here in violation of international law and should be returned — and whether many of them were put in orphanages in South Vietnam by their true parents just before the Communist takeover.

CLOSER TOGETHER

Meanwhile, Miki and other Vietnamese children adopted by American families are becoming increasingly attached to their adoptive parents.

Dubbed the "baby lift case," its resolution will take months.

Involved in the case are:

—The U.S. government, specifically Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, former Defense Secretary James Schlesinger, Atty. Gen. Edward Levi and other government and military officials who participated in Operation Baby Lift. They are the defendants.

—Muoi McConnell, a former nurse who had worked in American hospitals in Vietnam. Versed in Vietnamese, she was among the group that initially took care of the Baby Lift children when they disembarked in San Francisco and were quartered in the Presidio compound. She is the plaintiff.

—The Center for Constitutional Rights, whose most famous member is radical lawyer William Kunstler, is handling the case.

week allowed them to intervene as interested parties.

—North Vietnam, not really involved in the suit, but involved in the controversy. It has charged the U.S. action in executing Operation Baby Lift was tantamount to kidnaping and a violation of international law.

—The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, charged by the court to investigate the background of each Vietnamese child.

—Several international organizations, including the International Union for Child Welfare, which have been suggested as the intermediaries in tracing the children's backgrounds in Vietnam.

HUMANITARIAN MOVE

The controversy is the result of what the government billed a humanitarian gesture at the end of the Vietnam War — bringing orphans and abandoned children from Vietnam to the U.S. for adoption.

Critics charged, however, it was a propaganda move aimed at swinging American public opinion toward helping the collapsing South Vietnam regime.

Although the program was marred by tragedy when a C-5A transport plane crashed and killed more than 200 children, more than 2,100 were brought into the country.

Seven adoption and relief agencies supervised the placement of the children with American families. Three weeks after Operation Baby Lift was over, Miss McConnell filed suit challenging its legality.

Miss McConnell apparently spoke to many of the newly arrived children, who reportedly told her they had been taken from Vietnam without their parents' knowledge and wanted to go home.

Miss McConnell told her attorney that when Saigon was collapsing, many children who were neither orphans nor abandoned were placed by their parents in orphanages for safekeeping.

The orphanages were like "daycare centers," Miss McConnell's attorney said. But during Operation Baby Lift the orphanages were emptied in a wholesale manner.

UNRESPONSIVE

Miss McConnell contacted U.S. officials about the problem, but they were unresponsive, according to her attorney.

The complaint charged the children were brought to the United States against their will and that of their Vietnamese parents and rela-

Refugee Tax Claims Spelled Out by IRS

By BOB JAIN

Denver Post Staff Writer

Can a Vietnamese refugee claim a U.S. income tax deduction for personal assets left behind when he fled?

The answer is "no," according to the Internal Revenue Service, (IRS) which has put out a list of answers to questions

according to the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, 1,964 had been relocated in Colorado, with 478 families settling in Denver.

There is no tax on U.S. currency brought from Vietnam, the IRS says, and taxes on income from sale of gold, jewelry and other times will be only on excess

HUMAN SERVICE AGENCY

State's Viet Refugees Aided

By GLENN TROELSTRUP
Denver Post Staff Writer

A human-services agency for the estimated 6,500 Vietnamese refugees in Colorado has been set up by a group of refugees

mittee headed by Meyers. The eight also serve on tentative communications and organizations committees to contact the refugees in Colorado, inform them of the association's activi-

teacher and refugees' English-language adviser for Adams County School Districts, 1, 12, 14 and 50.

'SUDDEN EXILE'

Meyers said Wednesday the

seling available."

FEAR COMMUNISTS

The refugees from communism in their own country also are fearful of harassment by pro-Communist elements in



Denver Post Photo by Bill Johnson

REALTOR RICHARD MEYERS

is new agency for some 6,500 Vietnamese.

Postwar Problems Vietnam Reds Struggle With Economic Woes, Corruption, Resistance

They Also Face a Long Task Of Developing Country; First Aim: Reunification

U.S. 'Atrocities' on Display

By SETH LIPSKY

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

HONG KONG—Nearly eight months after seizing Saigon, the Vietnamese Communists are struggling with postwar problems almost as agonizing as the war itself.

The victors in the long, bloody war in Indochina still struggle with scattered armed resistance. They struggle with massive unemployment in the cities, with monetary turmoil and with an embarrassing spread of the region's traditional petty corruption to their own troops. And, like many another underdeveloped country, they struggle with the intractable problems of long-range economic development.

But they aren't letting these problems divert them from a cherished goal: the early reunification of the relatively rich and easy-going South with the more-Spartan North.

Such are the impressions brought out of Saigon in recent weeks by foreigners who either remained or were trapped there during the Communist takeover or who have visited the city since then. Their impressions are reinforced by the opinions of diplomats, newsmen and corporate Indochina watchers and by Communist news releases and broadcasts from Vietnam.

"American Atrocities" Museum

Visitors to the city say the visible signs of the long American presence are fading fast. The American embassy, of course, is closed and deserted; not far away, a museum of "American atrocities" has opened. The girlie bars along Tu Do Street are closed. Along the road to the airport, the sign that once proclaimed that the "noble sacrifice of allied soldiers will never be forgotten" now proclaims devotion to independence and liberty.

In some ways the city still clings to its colorful past, of course, but with a grip that is slowly slipping. While nostalgic Saigonese cafe-goers trade farfetched rumors about former premier Nguyen Cao Ky returning to retake the country, the new political commissars in the presidential palace chart a socialist course that probably is irreversible.

To ensure its irreversibility, the Communists are pushing a campaign to curb opposition, the reports of travelers and others indicate. Although the instant bloodbath that so

nurse who later left says she treated suicide attempts at a Saigon hospital.

Despite the tough moves, monetary turmoil continues to plague the government. Only last month, a Saigon broadcast denounced "bourgeois and reactionary elements" that it said were "releasing many groundless rumors" as part of a scheme to "discredit the people's revolutionary currency," an apparent reference to the new bank notes.

And amid the major economic problems, the petty corruption that lingers on comes partly from a source that embarrasses the Communists—their own forces. Some travelers say North Vietnamese soldiers in Saigon have been trafficking in canned milk, cigarettes and cement at black-market prices. Some suggest that well-connected individuals can purchase exit papers. To some visitors, Hanoi officials have acknowledged what they call "mistakes" by lower-ranking aides in Saigon, and such corruption—a favorite Communist accusation against the old regime—is what the officials seemed to have in mind.

Despite the economic woes, however, politics apparently preoccupies official thinking; the Communists' first priority is reunification of the country. Last month—sooner than many observers had expected—reunification talks were convened in Saigon. After a week of zealous speeches, the delegates agreed unanimously that in the first half of 1976 elections would be held to choose a "common national assembly for the whole country" that would devise a constitution for a "unified Vietnam."

The conference, one skeptical American says, was the "ceremonial burial of the puppet"—the puppet being the provisional revolutionary government of South Vietnam that had been established in 1969 to participate in the Paris peace talks. Key decisions now, as all along, are being made by the Vietnam Workers Party, the Communist party that controls the Hanoi government.

Possible Help at UN

Although reunification seems unlikely to provide quick solutions to economic problems, it could remove one difficulty in Vietnam's effort to gain admission to the United Nations. The country had been seeking two seats, one for the North and one for the South, but last August the U.S. vetoed the application. How the U.S. would react to a Vietnamese bid for a single seat hasn't been made clear, however.

Reunification also could have far more important political effects throughout Southeast Asia. North Vietnam already controls the second-largest army in the area (after China's), and non-Communist neighboring nations are wary even though North Vietnam hasn't posed any new threats to them. (Earlier this month, Laos became a "people's republic" under a Communist government that owes much to Hanoi, but the changeover was long expected, long discredited and bloodless.) A unified Vietnam of 45 million people could become within five years the dominant power in Southeast Asia, many observers believe, as well as a leading example of successful revolution.

Perhaps in fear of being so eclipsed, China—a key wartime backer of North Vietnam—is showing a cooler attitude, especially as Hanoi-Moscow relations grow warmer.

Baby Lift row touches Lakewood family



NEWS PHOTO BY JOHN GORDON

A Lakewood mother is one of hundreds throughout the country caught in an international dispute that may decide whether she can keep her Vietnamese child.

Mrs. Susan Summers' 13-month-old "adopted" child, Miki Hyvong, was brought to the United States from Vietnam eight months ago in Operation Baby Lift.

Whether the child is allowed to stay may depend on the outcome of a suit being argued now in San Francisco U.S. District Court.

Neither Miki nor his parents are named in the suit, even though the child's fate may rest on the outcome.

Miki, of course, is oblivious to the entire controversy. Last Friday, during the most recent hearing, he was sitting in his baby-tender in the living room, pensively munching a Cheerio.

"When Miki came here he was 6 months old and weighed 7 pounds. He had rickets and some other diseases," Mrs. Summers said. "No mother would have treated him that way," she said in stating her belief the child was an orphan.

Nevertheless, attorneys are arguing whether the babies were brought here in violation of international law and should be returned — and whether many of them were put in orphanages in South Vietnam by their true parents just before the Communist takeover.

CLOSER TOGETHER

Meanwhile, Miki and other Vietnamese children adopted by American families are becoming increasingly attached to their adoptive parents.

Dubbed the "baby lift case," its resolution will take months.

Involved in the case are:

—The U.S. government, specifically Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, former Defense Secretary James Schlesinger, Atty. Gen. Edward Levi and other government and military officials who participated in Operation Baby Lift. They are the defendants.

—Muoi McConnell, a former nurse who had worked in American hospitals in Vietnam. Versed in Vietnamese, she was among the group that initially took care of the Baby Lift children when they disembarked in San Francisco and were quartered in the Presidio compound. She is the plaintiff.

—The Center for Constitutional Rights, whose most famous member is radical lawyer Wil-

son, who has argued that the U.S. government week allowed them to intervene as interest parties.

—North Vietnam, not really involved in suit, but involved in the controversy. It charged the U.S. action in executing Operation Baby Lift was tantamount to kidnapping and violation of international law.

—The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, charged by the court to investigate background of each Vietnamese child.

—Several international organizations, including the International Union for Child Welfare, which have been suggested as the intermediaries in tracing the children's background in Vietnam.

HUMANITARIAN MOVE

The controversy is the result of what the government billed a humanitarian gesture at the end of the Vietnam War — bringing orphaned and abandoned children from Vietnam to U.S. for adoption.

Critics charged, however, it was a propaganda move aimed at swinging American opinion toward helping the collapsing Saigon Vietnam regime.

Although the program was marred by tragedy when a C-54 transport plane crashed, killed more than 200 children, more than 200 were brought into the country.

Seven adoption and relief agencies supervised the placement of the children with American families. Three weeks after Operation Baby Lift was over, Miss McConnell filed a suit challenging its legality.

Miss McConnell apparently spoke to many of the newly arrived children, who reportedly told her they had been taken from Vietnam with their parents' knowledge and wanted to go home.

Miss McConnell told her attorney that when Saigon was collapsing, many children who were neither orphans nor abandoned were placed in their parents in orphanages for safekeeping.

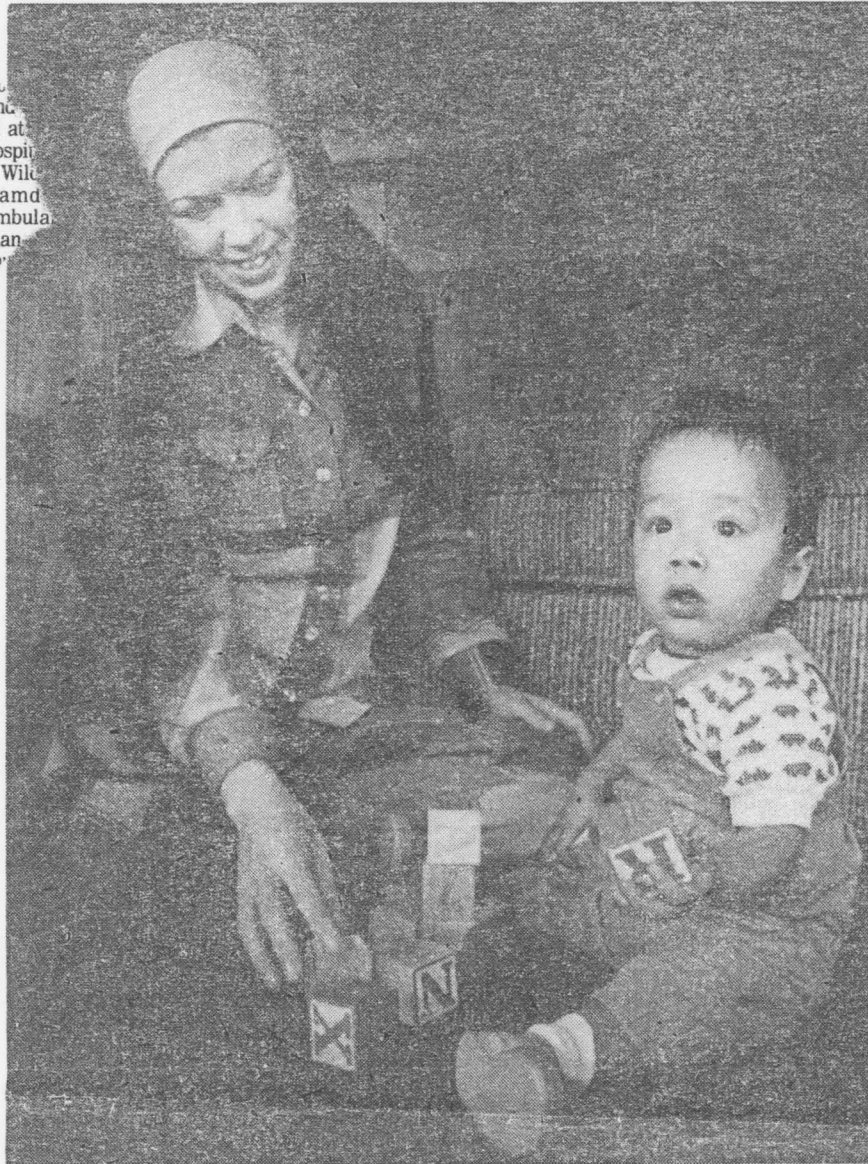
The orphanages were like "daycare centers," Miss McConnell's attorney said. During Operation Baby Lift the orphanages were emptied in a wholesale manner.

UNRESPONSIVE

Miss McConnell contacted U.S. officials about the problem, but they were unresponsive, according to her attorney.

The complaint charged the children were brought to the United States against their will and that of their Vietnamese parents and

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NEWS PHOTO BY JOHN GORDON

Susan Summers watches her 13-month-old adopted son, Miki, play while a court in California decides whether he will be returned to Vietnam. Miki was brought to U.S. eight months ago in Operation Baby Lift.

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Although the class action suit was considered

(Continued on page 19)

Harvesting a Yule tree is rugged ritual

Lawyer blasts court delay on Babylift

By DAVID GREENBERG
News Staff

Hundreds of families wishing to adopt children brought to the United States in Operation Babylift have been kept in a legal state of limbo and risk having details of their private lives brought into open court, an attorney for a Denver-based adoption agency charged Tuesday.

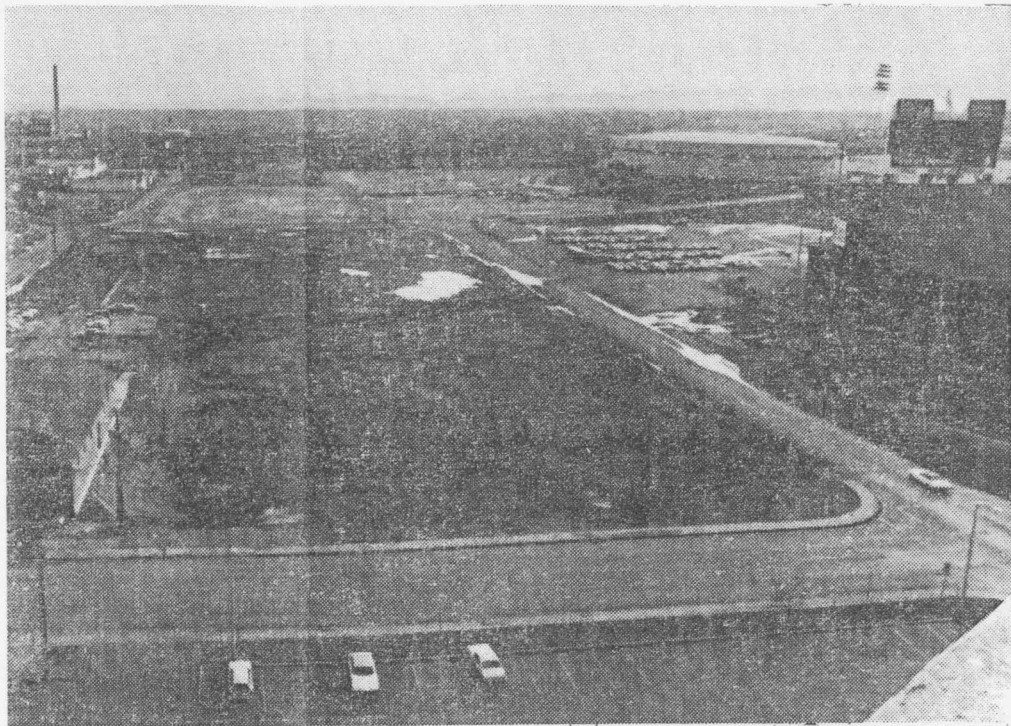
Carl Eklund, lawyer for the Friends of Children in Vietnam, a volunteer group that brought 435 children into the country, said a suit filed in California is causing the problems.

Eklund and attorneys for another Colorado agency, Friends for All Children, are seeking to intervene in the suit in behalf of the affected families.

The suit was filed on April 30, 1975, in U.S. District Court for Northern California on behalf of three children brought to this country during Operation Babylift. Named as defendants were Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger, Atty. Gen. Edward Levi and other government and military officials.

The complaint charged the children were brought here "against their will and that of their Vietnamese parents or nearest of kin" and asked that efforts be made to reunite the children with their families in Vietnam.

The suit was submitted as a "class action," which means that it sought to represent all children brought to this country in Operation Babylift in violation of American-South Vietnamese



NEWS PHOTOS BY MEL SCHIELTZ

new Parks and Recreation Department headquarters. Right, a corner of Mile High Stadium.

new headquarters

1 bonds buy parks office

The 13,178-square-foot building and property room for new courtrooms and seek leased