The original documents are located in Box 7, folder “4/3/75 - Opening Statement at Press Conference at San Diego, California” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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OPENING STATEMENT

We are seeing a great human tragedy as untold numbers of Vietnamese flee the North Vietnamese onslaught. The United States has been doing and will continue to do its utmost to assist these people.

I have directed all available naval ships to stand off Indochina to do whatever is necessary to assist. We have appealed to the United Nations to use its moral influence to permit these innocent people to leave, and we call on North Vietnam to permit the movement of refugees to areas of their choice.
While I have been in California I have been spending considerable time on the humanitarian problem. I have directed that two million dollars be made available from a special foreign aid children's fund to fly 2,000 South Vietnamese orphans to the United States as soon as possible.

I also have directed American officials in Saigon to act immediately to cut red tape and bureaucratic obstacles preventing these children from coming to the United States.
I have directed that several C-5A planes and other aircraft especially equipped to care for these orphans during the flight, be sent to Saigon. I expect the flights to begin within the next 36 to 48 hours. These orphans will be flown to Travis Air Force Base and other bases on the West Coast and cared for there.

These 2,000 Vietnamese orphans are all in the process of being adopted by American families.

This is the least we can do, and we will do much more.