## The original documents are located in Box 1, folder "Friends of Children of Vietnam - Newsletters, 1973-1981" of the Shirley Peck Barnes Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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### HỘI BẠN THIẾU-NHI VIỆT-NAM

FRIENDS OF CHILDREN OF VIỆT-NAM

HEADQUARTERS :

600. GILPIN ST. DENVER, COLO. 80218 TEL. (303) 321 - 8262 SAIGON ADDRESS: 24 - 26, BÙI-THỊ-XUẨN GIA-ĐỊNH — S.Y.N. TEL. 43.162

The first time I met Doug Gray, I was impressed by the mere fact of what he was trying to do. Without a doubt, the handicapped are one of the least popular and consequently, most needing causes in Viet Nam. It is those handicapped children to which Doug Gray has dedicated his life.

An ex-British Medical Corpsman, he came to Viet Nam five years ago and began working with the mentally disturbed at Phu May Hospital. Today his cherry red nose and the distinctive sparkle in his eyes gives little indication of the horrors he has lived, working with twisted bodies and lost minded we only

experience in nightmares.

Now Doug Gray is on his own, tackling the lost children of Viet Nam, those stricken with polio, cerebral palsy, and other crippling diseases. Taking children often found tied to bed posts in a dark back room of an orphanage, he brings them to his Saigon Center and begins the long slow process of therapy, operations, more therapy. Doug plays a role in every step along the way, from surgeons assistant to floor scrubber. For his dedication he receives not a penny. (He cut himself off his \$25 per month living allowance because of rising costs) The satisfaction which keeps him going comes from watching the children begin to use once shriveled legs and begin to walk for the first time in their lives. The latest bunch to come here was a group of 27 I picked up from rural orphanages" he described, "I carried every one of them through that gate. Now 20 are walking."

A doctor I spoke with recently was also impressed. "I've seen that man do things with legs I'd have never thought possible. Considering the stress and conditions that man works under, I'd grant him the title of miracle worker."

Things have never been easy for Doug, but lately the economic situation has become so severe that for the first time he's had to seriously ask himself if he'll be able to stay. Initially funded by the Viet Nam Orphanage Project, he currently is trying to make ends meet with a trickle of funds from the American Korean Foundation. But it just isn't working out.

working out.
"I've had to cut down from 47 to 33 kids in the past week and a half, and lay off two workers. Most of the kids I sent away need more treatments, but I just couldn't afford to keep them. My food budget is three

or four dollars per day; thats for forty of us.

OF CHILDREN
OF VIET NAM

Living like this is hurting myself and the kids. Unless something happens soon, I'll have to send them all back to the orphanages."

I asked him what he would do if he had more available funds.
"First I'd improve the diet of these kids" he told me.
You know how important that is during the post operative stages.
Then I'd bring back some of those kids I had to give up last week.
Fifty dollars a month could do that."

"Fifty dollars", I thought to myself, "for a life time of walking. That must be the bargain of the century." "What

then?" I queried.

"Well, before I could take in more kids, I'd have to fix up the terrace" he dreamed, referring to a huge roof top porch, already covered, which Doug hopes someday will become a recreational therapy area. He built the only swing and set of parallel bars himself, as well as some childrens furniture. It seemed a waste for all that space to be currently unused. But Doug pointed out the broken tiles to me and what a hazard they are to children who must skoot themselves along the ground.

"If that could be fixed up we could giv e kids something

they'll never know otherwise, the ability to walk."

The value of work by a man like Doug Gray is clear enough. But what may not be clear is the state of jeopardy his work is in today. Without help he may not be here tomorrow. And if he's not here tomorrow, those children won't walk for a lifetime.

### International Children's Fund

Box 4432, Berkeley, California 94704 (415) 843-7518.

### PRESS RELEASE

VIETNAM GRPHAN AIRLIFT ONE YEAR LATER Contact: Thomas R Miller (415) 843-7518

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OVER ONE HALF VIETNAM BABYLIFT CHILDREN CLAIMED NOT ADOPTABLE

San Francisco: Papers filed March 19 in the US District Court in San Francisco by attorneys seeking the return of Vietnamese orphan airlift children to natural parents wishing their return claim that over 67% of the children are not eligible for adoption and efforts should be made to locate their parents, many of whom gave the children up in panic during the final days of the war. The papers, in a lawsuit naming Henry Kissinger and other federal officials as defendants, also said the Immigration and Naturalization Service, which had been ordered by the court to investigate the babylift, had attempted a massive coverup in its investigation, finding hundreds of children eligible for adoption who are not eligible and telling adoptive parents to proceed with adoption even where the Immigration Service itself had found children not eligible for adoption.

The plaintiffs in the lawsuit are the babylift children and their attorneys' claims are based upon their and a court appointed Vietnamese legal expert's studies of Immigration Service files on the children only recently made available over the opposition of the Immigration Service and the adoption agencies which brought the children here. Pointing to specific files, plaintiffs' attorneys found examples of Immigration Service directions to investigators telling them to find hundreds of children eligible whose identities were uncertain or unknown, fraudulent preparation of documents by adoption agencies and many instances of frightened parents, fearing for the lives of their children, being forced

-MOTE-Contributions to International Children's Fund are deductible for me ome tax purposes. VIETNAM BABYLIFT - 227222

to sign adoption releases in order to bring their children to safety.

One of the attorneys representing the babylift children, Morton Cohen, emphasized that prospective adoptive parents given ineligible tabylift children would not necessarily lose them, but that attempts should be made to locate their parents, who are not aware of the lawsuit, both here and in Vietnam. Various international agencies, including the International Union for Child Welfare in Caneva and the Red Cross, have offered their assistance in locating carents and returning children and the Vietnamese Government has requested the return of children whose parents wish their return. State Department officials have, however, so far refused to give, any information concerning the children to an international agency to assist in tracing parents.

In a related development, Vietnamese refugee mother, Ms. Vo
Thi Hao, went to Immigration officials in San Francisco on March
Sth asking them to return her 3 year old son who was taken away
the babylift under a false name. She told the officials she never
shed her son adopted, but only to be brought to safety and she
as been trying to locate him and have him returned for almost a year.
The ignation official Gordon Davidson had told the press several
they previously that he knew of no Vietnamese parent who had come to
the seeking their child's return. Plaintiffs' attorneys: "Ms.
The is one of at least a dozen parents and relatives who have come
them seeking their children, and that there may be many more if
these were taken to notify parents of the lawsuit.

At a hearing in the lawsuit itself, District Court Judge

Spencer Williams refused, on March 19th, to consent to plaintiffs:

appeal of his order denying a class action lawsuit so that all the

children can sue together. Their attorneys are, therefore, attempting

to join the children individually in the lawsuit. Judge Williams

indicated at the hearing he would rule against this at the next

hearing, scheduled for March 26th, which will force the year-long

lawsuit into the Court of Appeals for the second time. The first

time the case was appealed, the Court of Appeals overruled Judge

Williams' denial of access to the children's files to plaintiffs'

attorneys. This caused a five month delay in the case, in which no

action has yet been taken to return children to parents seeking

their return.

The lawsuit is being jointly sponsored by the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York and the International Children's Fund.

### legislative News

The following bills were not passed by the 93rd Congress. It is vital that they be resubmitted, acted upon, and passed. Please write to your Representatives and Senators urging that these bills be reconsidered by the 94th Congress. Only your interest and concern can give life to the rebirth of these bills.

BILI H.R. 16159 - Rep. Rarick (Louisiana), Rep. Aspin (Col.), Rep. Heckler (Mass.) introduced a bill toamend the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 to allow a deduction from Gross Income for social, agency, legal, and related expenses incurred with the adoption of a child by a taxpayer.

BILL H.R. 12315 - Rep. Sisk introduced this Bill to eliminate the limitation of two restrictions that have been placed on immediate relative status visas.

BIII H.R. 7555 - Rep. Koch (N.Y.) introduced this Bill to grant equal immigrant status of foreign orphans being adopted by single parents as is being granted to orphans being adopted by married couples.

BILI H.R. 03626 - This Bill was introduced to amend the Internal Revenue Code to allow deductions of medical, legal, and certain other expenses in connection with adoption.

BILL H.R. 04916 - This Bill spelled out deductions for agency fees, legal fees, and related expenses incurred in an adoption.

BILL H.R. 05866 - This is another Bill which supports Income Tax Deductions for adoption expense.



-- Photo by B. J. Beaird --



Picture 1

### with a little help from their friends.

The above advertisement plus text was placed in the Denver Post in the public interest by Columbia Savings and Loan. Our thanks to them. As you can see by the following letters, our friends in Viet Nam also send their thanks.

15 September 1973

Dear Rosemary and Friends of F.C.V.N.

With all my heart and in the name of all my children, I thank you for

all that you have done for my infants.

I also ask that you thank your benefactors who are your friends in F.C.V.N. who have donated money, vitamins, milk and medicine, etc...

The Good God will give you your just merit, for what you and your

friends have done for our children.
Once again "Merci"! Thank you a thousand times for everything! In Jesus Christ,

Sr. Robert du S. C. Nguyen-t-Tron September 22, 1973.

Dear Kind Mrs. Nancy Hegel,
I can imagine how all the "CVN Members in all over America are working indefetigably for our orphans in so many different ways. To those who collaborated with you in this contribution of \$500, our sincere gratitude and heartfelt thanks. A special thank too to Mrs. Galvin for the sale of her FCVN note paper.

You know that our orphanage was supported mostly by the American Troop in all the points of view for 7 years, now with the departure of the American Troop we lost a great deal and miss terribly their good presence. But we keep praying and hoping that the Devine providence will not abandon us... and we realized that we have been enswered, for since two months we get more help, from our friend benefactors in America, and this is very encouraging.

Please accept the loving and prayerful wishes from the children and sisters at Sacred Heart.

> Sincerely yours Sister Marie Angela

# EX

### RELISH THE THOUGHT

Corinth, Miss.\*\*Students at the Montessori Pre-School were busy making Cranberry-Orange Relish to sell on the porch of their school, 1710 Magnolia Road. The kids were making up 100 pounds by themselves to sell for the benefit of the orphans at a Saigon orphanage which is operated by the Friends of Children of Viet Nam, a totally volunteer, non-profit, non-political, non-partisan group. The relish was sold in 1 pound bags at \$1.50 per bag.

-The Daily Corinthian-



-- Photo by Ross Meador --

Two nearly new Air Shield
Isolettes and a portable
incubator were acquired for
the FCVN Center through the
combined efforts of Humboldt
FCVN and Sonoma County FCVN.



### "CHOSEN MOMS" COOKBOOK

The "Chosen Moms" Cookbook is on sale from the FCVN Oregon Chapter. This cookbook is small in size but contains 70 pages of recipes from adoptive moms, grandmothers, and prosepctive moms. Lots of pictures of kids who have been adopted and of those who wait for help. It sells for \$3.50 (including 50¢ shipping charge). Send your orders to: Mrs. Diane Nason, Oregon FCVN, P.O. Box 674, Ashland, OR 97520.

Lehigh Valley FCVN has 19-inch Raggedy Dolls for sale: Asian, Black, White - boy or girl dolls. They are selling them for \$7.00 plus 50¢ for postage. WRITE: Lehigh Valley FCVN 1835 Troxell Street Allentown, PA 18103

### FCUN-Viet Nam

Hope has come to the homeless and hopeless children of Viet Nam in the form of the volunteer agencies, one of which is FRIENDS OF CHILDREN OF VIET NAM. FCVN was established in 1967 by a group of Denver area physicians. FCVN's purpose is to aid orphaned, sick, injured, abandoned, and otherwise needy children of Viet Nam. FCVN today is a nation-wide, non-profit and non-affiliated organization of people who have joined hands in an effort to reach these children.

The FCVN Center is located in Gia Dinh, just outside Saigon; it is staffed by American volunteer and Vietnamese child care workers. The Center is the heart of FCVN.

It is from the Center that the supplies are dispersed to the provincial orphanages spread throughout the country. Conditions vary at these gathering places for discarded lives, from poor to unspeakable, with a mortality rate that can reach as high as 80%. FCVN's Overseas Staff visit as often as possible over twenty such orphanages, with them they bring the bare necessities of life sent by FCVN Chapters all over the United States.

A unique program called the Foster Orphanage Program is also administered through the FCVN Staff. This program was established as a means of personal help from families and groups in the U.S., directly to the orphanages, as it is our belief that one of the best possible means to aid the destitute and orphaned children in Viet Nam is to aid the orphanages and centers where they are cared for.

The Child Care Training Program is administered at the FCVN Center. This training program is aimed at the semiskilled and unskilled workers who are currently the backbone work force of the orphanages. By training these women in the skill of child care, we hope to offer a future to women who might otherwise remain unemployed in a country torn be economic strife.

The FCVN Center is home to children hopelessly and undeniably abandoned for whom adoption seems the best answer. While they wait for the day that they will go home to loving parents in the United States, the children are expertly cared for by the American and Vietnamese staff of FCVN. Their bodies and their spirits are nourished in order that the day may come when they, too, will board a plane like these children bound for home, parents, love, and a future.

The volunteer staff at the FCVN Center sees it, not so much as a place, but a spirit, an effort of hundreds of people coming together to offer assistance, security, love, and a future to thousands of children through the programs that they administer for Friends of Children of Viet Nam from throughout the United States and in Europe. "It isn't the address or the building that counts; it's the concern and giving of those who make this place a reality that will make the difference in the lives of the children as they face tomorrow," says the Director, Cherie Clark.

Much is being done-but much, very much, remains to be done. All of this work requires money, time, and love. The children are waiting-waiting for someone to care. Will we forget them? Will we let them be forgotten? Their future depends on today...tomorrow will be too late. In the words of John Denver, we say, "Come stand beside us, we can find a better way."

#### NEVER ABANDON THEM!

\*\*Editorial by Phyllis A.
Carson taken from MABA
FCVN Newsletter\*\*

If you are going to adopt or support a child, why not a Vietnamese or an American-Vietnamese child? There are thousands of orphans with a very little hope of their ever finding homes.

We, the people, can give them the hope they need.

Questions will enter your mind and you will get all kinds of free advice. Again and again, you will hear, "Why don't you adopt or help an American child?" To me and hundreds of others an answer is very simple. There are hundreds of people concerned about the American children, as there are specialized agencies to find homes for these children. Yet, there are places in the world where abandoned children have almost no hope...and that place is Viet Nam.

To quote Phila Henrietta Case: "Oh! Why does the wind blow upon me so wild? Is it because I'm nobody's child?" Think of those words and then picture in your mind Vietnamese babies waiting to be adopted or helped. Children who had American fathers. Handicapped children and the mentally retarded who will never be adopted. Children of all ages, alone, afraid and longing for love. That is the child you must find, and he or she is there ... waiting just for you. You are the hope they never had. Some say there is only a small number of them, but there are thousands ...waiting.

The French Government recognized the children of her soldiers and gave them citizenship and education and, where necessary, financial aid. And it's been said time and time again: "You Americans do nothing for your soldier's children. Why is that?" Only you, the concerned, can answer that.

Children have died in Viet Nam waiting. It's horrifying isn't it to imagine children dying? Yet, it happens. The children need you and you are their hope...NEVER ABANDON THEM!



-- Photo by Ross Meador --



TO AM BUS

This vehicle complete with red light and siren was donated by the Connecticut Chapter of FCVN. - It is used by the staff to transport children between orphanages, to the air-port and to the hospital

#### BUT WHAT ABOUT THE CHILDREN?

They are still there--still dying. In our excitement over finally "getting organized" we must not and shall not forget why we wanted to get organized in the first place.

Inflation has taken a terrible toll of lives in Vietnamese orphanages. When a few diaper pins cost over 312, can you imagine how expensive (and unavailable) Ampicillin is? Fifty children had to be turned away last month from one of the houses supported by FCVN. If more sick children are brought into an already danzerously overcrowded situation, the whole house suffers and many die. Can you imagine what this does to the morale of those dedicated and overworked volunteers? Can you imagine the anguish of those mothers who must trudge away with an unwanted and perhaps dying baby in their arms? Can you imagine how the people in the U.S. who work so hard to raise money or get the children feel at our "failure"?

If we can raise the money for the new medical clinic, Hy Vong; these

kinds of things need not happen again. Hy Vong, or House of Hope, would care for critically ill infants and children and isolate newly arrived children.

As you plan your HOLIDAY GIVING this year, please remember the children who have nothing .... except their friends. Please help!

#### 

### HOW CAN I HELP?

I am only one person....ne group....one church....one town....what can I do? It wouldn't take much from each nerson, you know, if enough people would help.

1. Send \$1.00. (If every person on our mailing list sent in just one

dollar, it would pay the rent on Hy Vong for six months!)

2. Buy a box of High Protein Baby Cereal every week. Or another baby item. Send your parcels here or we will tell you how to ship directly.

3. Buy calendars. (See order blanks elsewhere in newsletter. Give as Christmes gifts or sell them.)

Invite FOVM to give a slide show to your club, school, civic group.



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4. Invite FCVM to give a slide show to your club, school, civic group. 5. Ask a merchant, your church, your bank to take FCVM as a project. haps they are as sick as we are of "slick" organizations.

Christmes gifts or sell them.)

6. Volenteer your time and talents to FCVN.
7. Collect Bonus Gift Coupons from many procery items and personal products and mail them to: Mary Lou Robinson, 96 Rick Drive, Florence, Mass., 01060. She will redeem them for cash or products to be donated for Life Support.

8. Collect Betty Crocker coupons to be redeemed for office equipment.

Send to 600 Gilpin, Denver, Colorado, 80218.

9. Spread the word that we are tax-exempt and would love some large "end of the year" donation from an individual or business. We can also accert gifts of stocks, bonds, etc.

#### PAGE 6

### ATTENTION ALL PACKERS AND SORTERS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY

Please sort and label all goods to be sent to Viet Nam using the following information.

Hy Vong -- tiny babies to about one month of age and older sick children.

To Am -- one month to sitting up size -- perhaps about nine months.

New Haven--sitting to standing up size--nine months to about 18 months.

Allambie -- standing to about five years or so.

### PEMEMBER THE ONES WHO CARED BEFORE

The staff in Viet Nam who cared for your child during his/her stay in Saigon are very anxious to receive photos and letters concerning the progress of your child. They become VERY attached to these kids and grow to love them immensely. Take a few minutes to jot a note to these dedicated people once every few months. They'll be delighted! Address: To Am Nursery, FPO, San Francisco, California, 96620.

### REGISTRATION FOR YOUR VIETNAMESE CHILD

If your Vietnamese child has NOT been naturalized, you may apply for a "birth data card" for him. Call your local U. S. Department of Immigration and Naturalization (in Colorado 837-3526) and request form N-585. On this form is a blank to fill in asking the type of form (birth date card) you would like to receive. Write "G-350" in this blank. Return the card to INS with a \$3.00 fee.

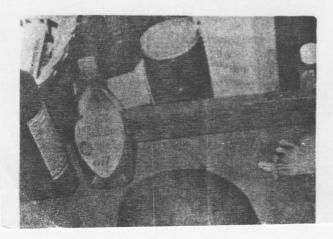
### CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS ON THEIR WAY

Almost 2500 were mailed recently to the orphans in Viet Nam. The project was headed by Bonnie Hutchinson. Many groups and individual volunteers assembled and packed the stockings.

#### TELEPHONE TREE

A new telephone tree chart will be mailed by December 1 to members in the Denver area. If you do not receive yours, call the office at 321-8262.

OPEN BOARD MEETINGS -- Every third Thursday at 7:30 at Gilpin address.



THIS CHILD IS LIKE MANY WHO COME TO THE NURSERIES--FORTUNATELY, MOST LEAVE THE HOUSES ROUNDER, HAPPIER, AND HEALTHIER THANKS TO SUPPLIES AND FUNDS SENT BY THEIR FRIENDS. FF1914

#### PAGE 7

### NEWS FROM THE ORPHANAGES

Karen Rambo, a Colorado volunteer working at To Am, communicates to us that irons are needed at To Am, Hy Vong, and Allambie---plus six baby scales in kilograms not pounds, and paper diapers without the outer plastic covering--as many as can be sent.

Special Requests from Sister Sylvie -- Providence Orphanage, Soc Trang

"As we have a school from kindergarten to junior and senior high school for our students and orphans. We would like a television for our children to enjoy themselves in spare times. If you can help us get it, we would be very grateful to you. Of course, you can provide us anything you like. Everything is useful here. We use them all. Be sure.

Once again, thank you very much for your kindness shown to our children. God Bless you and keep you safe."

From Vinh-Long, Diem Phuc Orphanage from Sr. Mary Nguyen Thi Tai Needs: one stethascope, two incubators, one sphygmomano meter, two pair of forceps, one bistouri, one llov.-30 kw generator, one electric water well pump, and one see-saw.

Sister Anicet needs a treadle sewing machine desparately -- mark for her when mailing.

Vung Tau is in dire need of cloth diapers and Sacred Heart at Da Nang needes insecticides--especially for mosquitos.

### From Rosemary Taylor-

Sister Marie Paul is working with seven refugee camps within a 15 Km. radius of Vinh Long--the population of these camps is 35,000! Rosemary asks that we bear Sr. Marie Paul in mind for light weight adult shirts, blouses, material pieces, sewing accessories, medicines (particularly for malaria, pin worms, round worms, typhoid, and coughs), skin oinments, soap, and adult vitamins. They should be sent to To Am and be sure to mark for Sr. Marie Paul.

Our Medical Committee still needs--Ampicillin.500 MGM. IVIN
Cortisone IVIM
Violactyl
Liquid Vitamins

From Sr. Mary Hayden at Binh Trieu

### A Description

The purpose of the new center in Saigon is to reach destitute girls and children before hunger and despair force them to turn to crime. We educate and teach the older girls trades. Employment is now impossible to find so we search for orders from shops and factories and the girls receive payment for their work. This is the goal. In practice it is very, very difficult.

. Most of these youngsters have never attended school. When they

our children to enjoy themselves in spare times. If you can help use get it, we would be very grateful to you. Of course, you can provide us anything you like. Everything is useful here. We use them all. Be sure.

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Most of these youngsters have never attended school. When they are old enough to beg or steal or peddle trinkets, they set off to earn a few cents while their mothers work as coolies when odd jobs are available. The menfolk are in the army or disabled or just missing. Many of them have other families elsewhere living in similar squalor. Home is a one room shack where the barest necessities of life are lacking—the use of soap is unknown. Our sisters visit each femily and to enable older girls to attend school we have opened a day care center where all ready there are 75 toddlers from a few months to five years.

P.1 Same

### NEWS FROM THE ORPHANAGES -- continued

Signs of malnutrition are painfully evident -- all kinds of skin diseases -- tuberculosis, eye trouble, etc. All children are given good nourishing meals at the center and as far as means allow they receive medical care. Soap is used unsparingly. The children are returned to their homes every evening well scrubbed and well fed. It is our policy to keep children within the family circle as far as possible no matter how destitute the surroundings are. When a child is entirely abandoned, we send her to our home at Vinh Long, but whenever there is a relative -- old grandparent or other whose love for the child is evident, we recognize this love as the child's most precious possession, and do all in our power to prevent depriving a child of her loved ones. This helps us too to keep in touch with the entire family and to discover and alleviate misery otherwise undisclosed. Many mothers receive what medical care we can afford. It is a far too common sight in Viet Nam to see a mother obliged by circumstances to place her children. in orphanages.'

Binh Trieu is now caring for 396 children and young girls and 168 families.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

### From the Editor:

FOR SALE

box(es) note cards@\$1 00

Almost one year ago I agreed to be newsletter editor. January 1973 newsletter was two pages and we sent 1500 copies. The last issue was eight pages and we mailed about 5000 copies. This is typical of the growth of FCVN. I've enjoyed being part of this expanding organization.

Now I've decided to step out of this position and choose other ways to work in FCVN. I hope someone in Denver will call LeeSanne Buchanen, head of P.R., in the next month and say they want to be editor. It's a challenging job--a way to be in touch with all areas of operation of the group.

Deadline for the next newsletter is the first week of January. All chapters are urged to contribute articles of national interest.

### Karen S. Mattison

CalendarsDrawings by Vietnamese	orphans and photos highlight these
lovely calendars for 1	974. Give them as gifts that keep
on giving all year.	
Christmas Cards Green paper with red in	
	carrying gifts to a Christmas tree.
Inside reads: JOY AND	
	xes or more, \$1.00 each
	hree Vietnamese children with FCVN
	LDREN SMILE IN THE SAME LANGUAGE
	xes or more, \$1.00 each
BirdsColorful, woven plastic	
	Saigon. Lovely on Christmas tree:
\$ .25 each	
Name '	
Name	Make checks payable to:
Address	Friends of Children of Viet
	Nam
	Mail to:
Please send me:	FCVN
calendar(s) @ \$1.50 ea.	P.O. Box 4583
box(es) cards @ \$1.50 ea.	Boulder, Colo.
*(boxes @\$1.00 ea.	
Pirds @\$ .25 ea.	

femily and to discover and alleviate misery otherwise undisclosed. Many mothers receive what medical care we can afford. It is a far too common sight in Viet Nam to see a mother obliged by circumstances to place her children in orphanages."

Binh Trieu is now caring for 396 children and young girls and 168 femilies.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

### From the Editor:

Almost one year ago I agreed to be newsletter editor. That January 1973 newsletter was two pages and we sent 1500 copies. The last issue was eight pages and we mailed about 5000 copies. This is typical of the growth of FCVN. I've enjoyed being part of this expanding organization.

Now I've decided to step out of this position and choose other ways to work in FCVN. I hope someone in Denver will call LeeSanne Buchanan, head of P.R., in the next month and say they want to be editor. It's a challenging job--a way to be in touch with all areas of operation of the group.

Deadline for the next newsletter is the first week of January. All chapters are urged to contribute articles of national interest.

### Karen S. Mattison FOR SALE Calendars ----- Drawings by Vietnamese orphans and photos highlight these lovely calendars for 1974. Give them as gifts that keep on giving all year. \$1.50 each Christmas Cards--Green paper with red ink, depicting four Vietnamese children of varying races carrying gifts to a Christmas tree. Inside reads: JOY AND PEACE TO ALL PROPLE. \$1.50/box of 10, 10 boxes or more, \$1.00 each Note Cards-----Whimsical drawing of three Vietnamese children with FCVN banner. Reads ALL CHILDREN SMILE IN THE SAME LANGUAGE \$1.00/box of 10, 10 boxes or more, \$1.00 each Birds-----Colorful, woven plastic birds about 3" long. Made by residents of Phu My in Saigon. Lovely on Christmas tree: \$ .25 each Name Make checks payable to: Friends of Children of Viet Address Nam Mail to: FCVN Please send me: \_calendar(s) @ \$1.50 ea. \_box(es) cards @ \$1.50 ea. P.O. Box 4583 Boulder, Colo. \*( boxes @\$1.00 ea. Pirds @\$ .25 ea. box(es) note cards@\$1.00 total \*(for orders of 10 or more

### DOLLS FOR SALE

boxes)

"Raggedy Kim"...handmade rag dolls available with Asian features, 20" tall (male or female Also available are black boy or girl. \$6.00 plus 75 cents postage. ALL proceeds are sent orphanages in both Korea and Vietnam. Send to Mrs. M. Turrel, Welsh Road, North Wales, Pennsylvania 19454.



I met you at the orphanage yard
Your sad eyes
Overflowed with
Loneliness
And pain.
You saw me.
You turned your face away.
Your hand drew circles,
Circles
On the dusty ground.

I dared not ask you
Where your father
And your mother were
I dared not open up your wounds.
I only wished to sit with you
A moment
Saying a word or two.

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Colorado FCVN wishes to recognize the valuable input toward re-organization provided by the many chapter representatives who came to Denver October 26, 27 and 28. We thank you for your time, help and patience.

### HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

The 1973 Holiday Season will soon be upon us! We wish to thank our many business friends who have assisted FCVN when needed. And, to remember all FRIENDS OF CHILDREN OF VIETNAM who donate precious time and/or money in the name of The Children.

JOY AND PEACE TO ALL PEOPLE!

FRIENDS OF CHILDREN OF VIETNAM 600 Gilpin Denver, Colorado 80218

Non Profit Org.
Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Littleton, Colo. 80120
Permit No. 206

riends of Children of Vietnam 500 Gilpin Denver, Colorado 80218 (303) 321-8251/321-8262 Easter Edition
March 1, 1974
Editor: Betsy Schneider
Assistant editor: Nancy Hegel
Production: Jan Woods

### FCVNEWSLETTER



Dear Friends,

As many of you know, I have just returned from a three week stay in Viet Nam. It was the most moving experience of my life. My days were filled with happiness and sorrow. I loved Vietnam and I loved the people.

I came to know them as gentle and kind. Yet I saw whole families living on sidewalk corners or in rusted metal huts stacked one on top of another. There were children everywhere. The children were roaming the streets and begging for food.

In the orphanages I saw malnourished, dying babies - room after room of children who belonged to no one. I saw children so weak they could not brush the flies and insects that congregated on their open sores. I saw babies sleeping in boxes because there were not enough cribs. Babies were sleeping outside on the steps and the porch because there was no room inside. Everywhere there were the sick, the malformed, and the diseased. I saw mothers bring their children to the orphanages because they could no longer feed or care for them. A newborn baby was brought wrapped in newspaper. Children are being abandoned in mass numbers and the orphanages are overflowing. The price of a bag of rice has doubled in the past few months and the war is worsening daily. The children are brought to the orphanages as a last hope.

I flew to Qui Nhon, a Communist stronghold, with a friend and visited the orphanage where my children had come from. It was an emotional experience to walk up the steps where once a mother had come with my child in her arms. The sisters who ran the orphanage were warm and kind. They welcomed me with open arms. I walked from room to room - it was raining and the water poured through the holes in the thatched roof. It was cold and damp. The children did not have blankets. There were no diapers - instead, the children wore old

(continued on page 5)

"The new Allambie is indeed a vast improvement after the old one. It's great to see the children with a place in which to play. Our garden is reasonably large so they can run around to their hearts content. Also the house has balconies so the children can play on these of an evening after they have had supper and their bath. Also our plumbing problems are greatly reduced, although water supply is still a bit of a problem as it is for so many places here."

DOREEN BECKETT, Allambie Nursery

"Our heartfelt thanks to . . . all Friends. . . for the very generous Check which we received today. We are deeply touched and are very greateful.

This sum of money will enable us to reach more poor children and help them during these very hard times.

The lunar New Year was peaceful in the larger cities but out in the countryside was far from peaceful. This was one of the saddest New Years for many poor people and the hungriest. . . (Those fighting in the war) buy up all the rice they can find at quite a high price and then there is not enough for the poor ordinary people. Then of course the oil shortage will raise the prices of almost everything. It is hard in every country but particularly so for the underdeveloped nations.

It is people like you who give us courage and hope to continue our work here and may the Lord reward you a hundredfold.

Gratefully and Sincerely Yours, SR. MARY HAYDEN (Binh-Trieu Orphanage)

"Thank you so very much for your nice letter. . . I got the money from the Bank of America, last week. No words to express my deep gratitude to you all, FCVN. We are like the nomad, nowhere to stay, around Kontum, it is fighting. I have built two houses for the Montagnard nursery, the wooden houses. I have some pictures, but I do not know how to send. I will try thru Vietnamese mail. I have to hire some men to dig a well. . . water is a problem. Flease accept my deep gratitude for all you wonderful help."

Love,

SR. ANICET & THE CHILDREN

From Rev. and Mrs. Don Warren - Vung Tau Christian Home: "Dear Friends,
'A friend in need is a friend indeed,' so goes the ancient adage of wisdom. You certainly have proven yourselves to be friends of Children of Vietnam, as well as friends of those of us who are trying to aid in the relief and rescue of these children. Thank you so very much!"

Excerpt from a letter to Frs. Fection from Sister Catherine in Vung Tau: "I will use your sum to buy the powdered milk for my 32 infants who drink in one month. Fresently, as you know, the cost of living in Vietnam is very dear because of the economical crisis after war, so the price of milk is very expensive. Whenever I go to store to buy the milk, the price gets dearer than last time. At the present, to buy the milk for my infants is a too difficult work for me because I have no money to do it in advance. For that reason, if you have an efficient manner, would you keep on helping me to buy enough milk for my children per month? I put all my hope on your generosity because the other benefactors of my crphanage have forgotten my orphans. In Vietnam, sometimes there are some kindhearted people who help me little, because my country ravaged by a terrible war and most of people are poor, so they can't help me feed the orphans while they are living in need." (Wind of Peace Orphanage )



(continued from p. 2) From Sister Marie of the Passion of St. Faul's Urphanage, Qui Nhon: "Dear Friends, Thank you for your letter through Mr. Steve who came to see us yesterday. How much we are indebted to you to taking care of our children. You wanted to know about special needs. Our children can use all kinds of your assistances of money, clothes, food. . . But we need much in this difficult time of economy: rice and milk for the children. We just buy 20 bags of rice and 10 boxes of milk by money donated from FCVm, for 1 month. If you can get milk. tocd. . . prease help us in adding. Loce more to you our sincere gratitude and to the generous people who contribute their assistance our deeply felt thanks. May God bless you and all your dear ones."

Excerpt from a letter from Sister Mary. Directress of Diem Phuc orphanage: "Fresently, since my orphanage has moved to a place very far from the town, I have not any mean to take the children to school. The school is 6 km. from the house, neither do I have any way to take the sicken children to the nospital and therefore two babies have died resulting from a lack of the mean of transport. In addition, all the employees of my orphanage left their jobs because I have not longer money enough to pay their salaries for their services while they work so hard. Thus, my urgent needs include: means of transportation to take the children to school and the hospital, muney to pay the salary to the employees each month for the first semester of this year."

Excerpt from note from Susan McDonald, at wew Haven: "I want you to know how grateful I am for the syringes you sent with Mary Nelle - just the right size. And thank you very much for the ampicillin and baby supplies that came with Sr. Helen Reynolds. . . I appreciate the care and work your generous donations represent. . . you have sent toilet paper, toddler clothing and vitamins which are also very helpful to us. It was good to see Sister Helen Ann and Sister Rosalie. I am sure they have been able to give you first hand reports on the many orphanages they visited.



NEED CONTINUES

A new year has begun and with it a renewed dedication to the children in the nurseries, orphanages and refugee centers of Vietnam. For the many of us who have made work in FCVN our major interest aside from our families, the continued and growing needs of the orphanages seems at times staggering. But looking at a photograph of some of the children in an orphanage or receiving letters like those quoted or just watching one of our own Vietnamese sons or daughters brings tears of love to our eyes. Somehow our energies return. To be needed is one of the greatest feelings, and we know we are needed by these children.

Can you imagine walking into an overcrowded orphanage and instantly being surrounded by children of all ages - some grabbing your legs - all of them hoping you will take them home with you?

What about the very weak child in the orphanage covered with flies and mosquitoes who does not have the strength to move his arms?

How we wish we could brush of those files, pick up that child and protect him from the sorrows of life. But each of us is only one person, and there are so many many children.

### SHIPPING NEWS (November and December)

Florida FCVN: two large shipments: a Christmas shipment with wrapped gifts for the children, medicines, food and clothing (1900 lbs.) and a shipment of 17 large cartons of baby formula, Kaopectate, cough medicine, antibiotics, food stuff, Pampers and toys.

St. Louis FCVN: In December the group shipped 146 boxes weighing a total of 3,560 lbs.

Viet Nam Children's Committee of the Open Door Society: donated a treadle sewing machine for Sr. Anicet.

Tucson FCVN: sent 11 packages of clothes and 1 box of toys in December.

Georgia - Friends of Children, Inc. sent 66 boxes in November, 44 for Binh Trieu and 22 for ToAm. In December, sent 44 boxes of clothing, food and toiletries, 36 for Binh Trieu and 8 for ToAm.

Oregon FCVN: shipped medicines worth \$2,589.50.

Denver FCVN headquarters - 530 boxes of. food, clothing, toys, school and sewing supplies and miscellaneous goods - 720 lbs. of medicines. These are sent to Viet Nam via the Denver office by chapters and kindred groups throughout the United States.

In the future we hope to publish quarterly reports that will reflect all FCVN shipping by chapter.

### PROGRESS REPORT ON THE FOSTER ORPHANAGE PLAN

start with six orphanages receiving donations in January. These orphanages are as follows: Providence, CanTho - \$130.; Diem Phuc, Vinh Long - \$370.; Phu My, Saigon - \$20.00; St. Paul's, Qui Nhon -\$100.; Sacred Heart, DaNang - \$158.; Vung Tau Christian Home, Saigon - \$105.00.



#### REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

Many friends of the children continue to send their support to specially designated orphanages and nurseries they feel personally close to. Since August 1, 1973, over \$37.000 in specially designated donations has gone to the nurseries and orphanages through FCVN Headquarters. Of this total more than \$21,200 was directed to nurseries in Saigon -\$6,700 alone for Hy Vong, the newly established intensive care clinic.

General donations in the amount of \$7,300 have also been sent to the orphanages and nurseries during this period. Of this total, \$6,400 went to Hy Vong and the New Allambie Nursery.

Tet gifts of \$150 each are being sent to all orphanages FCVN assists.

FCVN has grown tremendously in the past year. and this growth has increased the operational expense. Although many of you throughout the country try to cover some of your own postage and phone expense, the cost of coordinating the work does continue to grow. and we need the help of all our friends. FCVN is now looking for funds, possibly in the form of grants, which could help in the operating expense of FCVN here in the U. S. and in our Saigon supply operation. The operating expenses in Colorado alone run \$2,500 to \$3,000 per month - covering phone, office staff salaries, utilities for office and storeroom, printing, supplies and postage (correspondence, thank-yous, packages to Vietnam). Our supply operation in Saigon (starting this month) will cost about \$1,200 monthly - to cover rent of a building, salary for a supply ufficer, rent of a vehicle and gas (\$2 a gallon now). If FCVN can receive financial assistance in the operational areas mentioned, once again all donations received and not specifically designated can go to the children.

You are all involved in the work of FCVN be-The Foster Orphanage Plan is off to a good cause of the children who need you. And FCVN needs your help to reach as many children as possible. If you know of a friend or an organization interested in helping the children in the above mentioned ways, write or call FCVN Headquarters.

> Please accept my thanks and that of all the officers and directors for your help in 1973° Thank you too for your marvelous letters of encouragement. We need your support in all ways. YOU ARE FCVN!

Most sincerely, NANCY C. HEGEL TREASURER

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For those of you who wonder how your donation is handled once it is received by FCVN I would like to explain: Donations come in three ways - Foster Orphanage Plan, designations to specific nurseries and orphanages, and General (Unspecified). All money designated for the Foster Orphanage Plan goes to the particular orphanages chosen by you. If an orphanage is not specified by the donor in this program, Mrs. Cheryl Markson, the F.O.P. director chooses one needing assistance most.

Donations for specific orphanages and nurseries are sent by cable, or in the form of a cashier's check to that orphanage or nursery. A letter is also sent giving the orphanage or nursery the amount of your donation, your name and complete address. Orphanage and nursery directors know of your generosity - whatever amount you are able to give.

In the case of special pleas for funds which have gone out in the past (such as Phu My Addition, the new intensive care clinic and the new Allambie Nursery), money designated for these areas is also sent directly. When a particular need is covered and additional funds are received these funds are redirected to other areas of need. If no special need is known at the time, these funds may be spent on vitally needed medicines, dried foods, diapers . . and shipped to Vietnam. Or these funds are used to help alleviate FCVN's operational costs.

General (or unspecified) donations are used for purchasing needed supplies and for operational expenses. FCVN also sends special donations to orphanages and nurseries - when there is some unusual need. An example of this was when Sister Anicet had to move because of fighting in the Kontum area last summer. FCVN cabled \$1.000 for Sr. Anicet to use in relocating.

When designated donations (in response to FCVN pleas) are redirected, we do not inform the donor because this would often mean a second thank-you or acknowledgement.

As all donors receive a thank-you, I'm sure you understand the difficulty of further follow-up. If you stipulate the need of some specific acknowledgement (e. g. proof of purchase of medicine, etc.), we will, of course, try to do this for you.

Many times we are asked about the religious affiliation of the orphanages supported by FCVN. Most orphanages in Vietnam are either Catholic or Buddhist. Most of the orphanages we now support are Catholic with one Protestant. The four nurseries in Saigon are completely non-affiliated, being run by people of various faiths and backgrounds. Any orphanage or refugee center in Vietnam is welcome to contact us and after an investigation by our Saigon staff, could be added to the list of places to which we contribute support.

Another question heard recently was:

Please explain the 80% mortality rate figure used in your literature? Some of the poorer orphanages have these very high rates, especially among babies under one year. FCVN-supported houses frequently have as low a death rate as 6%. When we all want to see money, foods and medicine enable babies to have round, healthy bodies and shining eyes and hair - even 6% is too high! Our goal should be an even lower death rate.

### continued from page 1

feedbags that rubbed their bodies raw. Most of the babies' heads and bodies were covered with boils. The only treatment seemed to be mercurochrome. Skin rashes were common. I did not see a child that we in America would consider healthy. All were undernourished and most were lying listlessly. In the toddler room, the children spent most of the day in their cribs. There is not enough staff to supervise the. I found no toys. In many instances, it was hard to tell if a child was retarded or simply deprived of stimulation - which made him so unresponsive. The older childred greeted us cheerfully. Their smiles showed teeth decayed to the gums. . .

I will always remember the many half-American children I saw, always in the orphanages, always abandoned. I saw blond-haired children often as fair as my own. I saw beautiful black children.

I cannot stop asking myself what will happen to these children. What will happen to all the children of Vietnam?

CHERIE CLARK
ILLINOIS Chapter

### A I D REGISTRATION

Friends of Children of Vietnam was granted registration with the u. S. Agency for International Development, Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid on January 28, 1974. Reimbursable shipping is one great benefit of this registration.

A year ago we were a loosely-knit group of people with a purpose. Now we are a unified and cohesive group with the same purpose, but with much greater effectiveness and putential. Juin with us and help us grow!

### SHIPPING STATUS

The Defense Department still has not handed down its ruling concerning the legality of voluntary organizations using the Fleet Post Office to ship supplies to Saigon. FCVN has been exploring several other possibilities. Mr. O'Conneil, of FCvN, Miami, is exploring ocean freight and Jennifer Shaalan, Chesapeake FCVN, has succeeded in securing shipping via a Flag Ship at a reasonable cost.

At this time we recommend you do not use the F. P. D.'s. Hold supplies until the Defense Department makes its decision.

### FCVN OFFICE MANAGER VISITS SAIGON

Sr. Helen Reynolds returned February 4 from a week stay in Vietnam. She and Sr. Rosalie escorted 5 children to their new homes in the U. S. While in Vietnam she visited 16 orphanages and nurseries. She saw several Vietnamese officials in the Ministry of Social Welfare. Those in VN who are responsible for the welfare of the orphans are happy to have the help of people of the U. S. And FCVN is happy to be able to help. Inflation in Saigon has made the purchase of gasoline, medicine, rice and other necessities all but impossible. It was a trip Sr. Helen will never forget, and she hopes also that the children will not pe forgotten.

### SUPPLY OFFICER HIRED

FCVN has seen the physical and logistical necessity to have a man in Vietnam to unload, disperse and deliver the tons of supplies shipped. Ross Meader leaves in March, to do the job. We will hear more about and from him in the next issue.



Photo by Ilse Ewald.

### RAGGEDY DOLLS

Raggedy Ann (white), Raggedy Kim (Asian) and Raggedy Cindy (black) and their brothers. 20", \$5.00 plus 75, mailing cost. Write: Mrs. Duuglas Turrell, Welsh Road, R. D. 1, North Wales, Pennsylvania 19454.

### ORIENTAL DOLLS

ers. Fat Worner of Worner-wak Specialties has been working on getting Oriental dolls to market here in the U. S. She has some very good leads and hopes that the dolls will be available in a couple of months. She would like to near from interested people to find out what their interests are and/or if they would like to be notified when the dolls are available for sale. More specific information about the dolls and the costs will be available at that time. The following form can be sent or vou can call: Mrs. Fat Worner, c/o Worder-Oak Specialties, 1130 Crestmoor Drive, Houser, Colorado 80303, phone (303) 494-3188.

I would appreciate being notified

baby doll, teenage dol		ooote	r 601.	,	_ 8
Name	10 1 Car		,		40.
Address				(i) (by)	1000
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Morning coffees will be held once a month to renew old friendships and make new ones. Children are welcome — and a babysitter will be present to keep them entertained while the mothers visit. The first coffee will be at Chery! Markson's hume, 2245 Glencoe, April 17, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. If you are coming, please call the office (321-8251) as soon as possible.

### SLIDE SHUWS

A major tool for educating Denver Area people about Vietnamese children is our slide show. Volunteers speak to civic, church and young people's groups. Since each volunteer cannot provide a projector and/or screen, we desperately need a list of people who will provide projectors and screens on a volunteer basis. We will pick these up and return them. We realize this is costly equipment why we don't want to buy these if we don't have to. We will provide a signed statement of responsibility for your equipment. We would also welcome donations of this equipment; tax-deductible, of course. Please call Connie Ning, Slide Show Coordinator, at 757-3492 if you can help.

### TET CELEBRAIION

Over \$400 was netted by our Tet Celebration. Squad 4, a fantastic combo of area policemen entertained throughout the evening. Food and fellowship were excellent and hopes are high of repeating the event soon. Louise Dice wants to thank all who helped, and the Board wants to say thanks to Louise.

### BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are held at 7:30 p. m. every third Thursday at 600 Gilpin, Denver. SOMETHING NEW! Buard meetings will be preceded by a tea and rice supper at 6:00 p. m. with a showing of the FCVN slide show. Come and meet others who care about Vietnamese children. Stay for the board meeting. Children are welcome for the supper/slides (Small donation)

### DABYSITTERS NEEDED

pabysitters are desperately needed for volunteers who must sometimes work away from their homes. Areas of need at this time are West Littleton, South Lakewood and the area near the office (600 Gilpin, Denver). If you can help, please leave your name, address and phone with our Office Secretary at 321-8251. A coffee will be scheduled as an initial get-together for pabysitters and prospective "clients."

### BENEFIT BASKETBALL GAME FOR SACRED HEART

The students and faculty of Northeast
Junior High in Northglenn, Colo. raised
almost \$400. in a charity basketball
game between the KIMN disc jockeys and
the men's faculty basketball team. The
money raised will be used to support
Sacred Heart Orphanage in Da Nang through
the Foster Orphanage Plan. A big
thank you to the faculty and students
at Northeast for their enthusiasm and
support!

### COLLECTION POINTS

In the past month or two, a couple of people have volunteered to have their homes used as collection points for goods to be sent to the orphanages in Viet Nam. They are:

Ft. Corlins - Jan D. Forbes, 1809 Orchard Place. Littleton - Fat Secrist, 6517 So. Clarksun

If there are people in other parts of the city that have space that could be used in this way, please let the office, 600 Gilpin, know about you.

We have a recurring need for occasional clerical help during the week <u>at</u> the office. Please call 321-8251 if you are qualified and interested.

# colorado

### COUPONS - COUPONS - COUPONS

If everyone receiving this newsletter (over 7,000 this month) will send us their besty Crucker coupons and Bonus coupons, we will be well on the way to our copy-machine reimbursement (B. C. coupons) and cash for needed supplies (Bunus coupons). We have 20,000 points and need only a total of 80.000 to pay off our copy machine.

### MISSING THE BOAT

How many ex-servicemen and presently active servicemen and women are on our mailing rist? Net many! How many served in vietnam and used to help the orphanages? A lot! Please send us names of local bases, servicemen, service organizations. I am sure they would be delighted to hear of a group that is trying to take up where they left off in helping the orphanages of Vietnam.

### REMINDER OF NA CONFERENCE

The 4th worth American Conference on Adoptable Children - Adoption in Perspective - vision and Reality, will be held March 14 - 17 in Washington, D. C.. Those wishing more incormation should write to: 4th worth American Conference on Adoptable Children, 4103-Byrd Court, Kensington, Md. 20795.

BUNNY SUITS needed for the babies in the nurseries and orphanages to protect them from flies and mosquitoes.

PLAY EQUIPMENT and toys that would be especially beneficial are needed. These toys should be geared to muscle eye coordination and will do wonders for children. A special fund is set aside for this project. If you would like to contribute money to the project or could contact a school or special toy company for donated items, please let us know by writing our FCVN headquarters.



### FOSTER ORPHANAGE REMINDER

Friends of Children of Vietnam has started a Foster Orphanage Flan to provide a consistent level of support for an entire orphanage. Farticipants join with 49 others who each pledge \$10. a month to sponsor an individual orphanage or refugee center. Sponsors are sent photos and letters on a regular basis. All money for this program goes directly to viet Nam.

### \* 80065\*

"The viet Nam War: Why?" by M. Sivaram 175 pp. L. C. Cat. Card No., 66-13009, \$3.85.

Customs and Culture of viet Nam by Ann Caddell 206 pp. L. C. Cat. Card No. : 67-16721, \$4.35.

Viet Nam: Our Beloved Land by Nhuyen Cao Dam & Tran Lao Linh 128 pp. Photographs that reflect VN through the eyes of Vietnamese remembering their country before the war began. L. C. Cat. Card No. 68-2116 \$3.50.

many Vietnamese recipes @ 12.50 from My Friends House, P. O. Box 205, Hoston, Mass. 02199

Article, "Children in Limbo," by Catherin Fomeroy Collins, McCall's, January, 1974. Short story, "Each Day with Michael," by Berta Ledecky. Concerns acceptance by an adopted Vietnamese boy of his new mother and baby sister. Redbook, Feb. 197



### CHAPTER NEWS

FCVN - St. Louis, Missouri: vietnamese Orphan Week will be held February 24 - March 2, 1974. The Governor's proclamation and enthusiastic area-wide support ensure success. St. Louis will provide information on how to run your own Erphans' Week. Available also will be bumper stickers.

Hospital bracelets - This idea is to secure plastic hospital bracelets and insert the name, age and location of an orphan in Viet Nam. This chapter is hoping to have bracelets to sell at 50¢ each during Vietnamese Orphan Week.

uver 3,560 lbs. of supplies was recently shipped to the orphanages. St. Louis also sends over \$1000 to the nurseries and orphanages practically every month.

FCVN - Fanhandle, Texas: This chapter has sent over \$2,500 to Julie Chinberg for the children at Allambie wursery. Julie is receiving great support from her hometown, NoFherson, Kansas through this chapter.

A clothes dryer will soon we purchased for Allambie from donations received from a young women's class of the First Baptist Church in Dumas.

FCVN - Wisconsin: This chapter sent 450 lbs. of food, medicine and clothes to orphanages in 1973. They also raised around \$1,200. As children arrive from Vietnam, they plan to become an adoptive parent group.

Open Door Society of Milwaukee/ Vietnam Committee: In 1973, a total of 996 ibs of supplies was sent to Vietnamese orphanages through FCVN. Postage was \$170. And a treadle sewing machine went to Sister Anicet.

Friends of Children, Inc., Georgia:
"Indeed . . . Mrs. Engelken and her
friends work with much dedication and
clear thinking. We marvel at the speed
and effectiveness of their planning and
all the hard work involved. I only wish
these generous workers could see the
gratifying results of their self-sacrifice. . ." excerpt from a letter from
Binh Trieu Center, Saigon, expresses

the admiration of the Binn Trieu staff for Friends of Children, Inc., 843 Monmouth Drive, Stone Mountain, Georgia, 30083. This group is now the largest concributor to the support of Binh Trieu. Through their Foster Child Program (\$12. per month for support of a child at Binh Trieu; in return sponsors receive a picture and reports on their child) and general fund raising, Friends of Children has been sending at least \$450. monthly to this orphanage. They want to do more. Supplies have also been flowing from Stone Mountain to Saigon. Binh Trieu received 44 boxes in November and 36 in December.

Lya Engelken summed up the spirit that moves this remarkable group when she heard that their organization is now Binn Trieu's largest supporter: "It is an awsome responsibility, but one that we will proudly carry."

FUVN - Englewood, Lalifornia: Off to a good start. in two munths of existence we have collected \$600. Supplies totaling 318 lbs. have been shipped to vietnam.

FCVN-oregon: Hundreds of pounds were sent from this chapter. Two bake sales nexted \$180. Doneted medicines worth 2589.50 have gone. We have many enthusiastic volunteers in rather widely-scattered areas of Oregon.

FCVN - Miami, Florida: Late in 1973, \$885. was raised and sent to vietnam. Thousands of pounds of valuable goods have been shipped by sea. Many fundraising events are going on with good publicity recently.

FCVN - Iowa City, Iowa: Such well-packed cartons come from this chapter. When a need arises, they come through. \$1000 was recently received from Iowa City with \$800 designated for FCVN's new Overseas Supply Director program.

FCVIV - Nassau, New York: Vikki Galvin has available Vielnamese puppet patterns. These make good bazaar items. Seno 16¢ stamped, self-addressed legal size envelope to her, 850 Edward St., Baldwin New York 11510.

(continued on page 10)

of this chapter leave this month to begin their new jubs at My friends House in Saigon. We wish them well in this new venture. Illinois chapter will miss them, but will keep on keeping on.

FCVN - Nebraska: This new chapter sends a good deal of material aid and tunds to Lan Binh Orphanage.

FCVN - Tucson, Ariz.: This chapter supports Good Shepherd in Vinn Long with supplies and funds. Large donations for Phy My, and the nurseries have been received from the Tucson area.

FCVN - Chesapeake: This chapter recently acquired \$1,000 to get FCVN's Overseas Director program on its way. Much success in getting low-cost shipping through efforts of Longressmen and Senators. They will share all knowledge with other chapters who want to ship on their own.

FCVN - Mid-Hudson valley Chapter: A large load of supplies was shipped through Denver in January.

We realize that although we want to show a complete picture of your vital work, some chapters are not represented here. We will "borrow" from chapter newsletters. If your chapter does not publish a lical newsletter, please write, a short "report" to include next time. Send your newsletters and/or reports to 600 Gilpin, Denver 80218.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS - sent by Barbara.

Indochina Postwar Reconstruction

Sec. 24. The Foreign Assitance Act of 1961 is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new part:

"Part V
Sec. 801. General Authority - The
President is authorized to furnish,
on such terms and conditions as he may
determine, assistance for relief and
reconstruction of South Vietnem,
Cambodia, and Laos, including es-

pecial v humanitarian assistance vo

refugees, civilian war casualties, and other persons disadvantaged by hostilities or conditions related to thuse hostilities in South Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos. No assistance shall be furnished under this section to South Vietnam unless the Fresident receives assurances salisfactory to him that no assistance furnished under this part. and no local currencies generated as a result of assistance furnished under this part, will be used for support of police, or prisun construction and administration, within South Vietnam. Sec. 802. Authorization - There are authorized to be appropriated to the President to carry but the purposes of this chapter, in addition to funds utherwise available for such purposes. for the fiscal year 1974 not to exceed \$504,000,000, which amount is authorized to remain available until expended. Sec. 803. Assistance to South Vietnamese Children - (a) It is the sense of the Congress that inadequate provision has been made (1) for the establishment, expansion, and improve ment of day care centers, orphanages, hosters, school feeding programs, health and welfare programs, and training related to these programs which are designed for the benefit of South vietnamese children, disadvantaged by hustilities in Vietnam or conditions related to those hostilities, and (2) for the adoption by United States citizens of South Vietnamese children who are orphaned or abanduned, or whose parents or sole surviving parent, as the case may be, has irrevocably relinguished all parental rights, particularly children fathered by

united States citizens. (b) The President is, therefore, uthorized to provide assistance, on terms and conditions he considers appropriate, for the purposes described in clauses (1) and (2) of subsection (a) of this section. Of the funds appropriated pursuant to section 802 for fiscal year 1974, \$5,000,000, or its equivalent in local currency, shall be available until expended solely to carry out this section. Not more than 10 per centum of the funds made available to carry out this section may be expended for the purposes referred to in clause (2) of subsection (a). Assistance provided under this section



The Denver annual Children's Christmas Farty, Saturday, December 15, 1973 saw a peautiful array of white, black and prown children welcome the holiday season. There was a Christmas tree to decorate and Santa, of course! We thank Jan Woods and her family for putting this delightful happening together. A special thanks, too, to Father Faul Jennings and St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church for allowing us the use of their gym.

Friends of Children of vietnam 600 Gilpin Denver, Colorado 80218 Non Profit Org.

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Permit No. 206

Legislative news (cont.)
shall be furnished, to the maximum extent practicable, under the auspices of and by international agencies of private voluntary agencies.
Sec. 804. Center for Flastic and Reconstructive Surgery in Daigon - of the funds appropriated pursuant to section 202 for the fiscal year 1974, not less than 2712,000 shall be available solely for furnishing assistance to the Center for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery in Satgon.
Sec. 805. Authority - All references to part I, whether heretofore or hereafter enacted, shall be deemed to be references also to this part unless otherwise specifically provided. The authorities available to administer part I of this Act shall be available to administer programs authorized in this part.

Taken from the Foreign Assistance Act of 1973, Converence Report, dated November 27, 1973. Approved by the House on December 4, approved by the Senate on December 5, and signed by the President on December 17, becoming Judlic Caw 93-189.

COUNT ME IN	
I want my donation to aid the children in the form of	
	edicine, milk, other)
I want my money to be used to further educate people in about Vietnamese children and their needs. (Slice show, photographs, office extense.)	the United States
Foster Crpnanage Flan (\$10.00 per month committment).	See D. 7.
I/We would like to join in the support of	
1, as medic fixe to Jeff 1. She sapper 5.	1000 1000 1000 1000 1000 1000 1000 100
lst choice (na	me of urphanage)
we will send \$10. a month by the 20th of each month	
want my money used wherever the need is greatest.	State of the second
Name	
- Hone	
Address	
	C 7.5
	13
Our group needs a speaker.	
For Sale	
FLVW Note Cards - 12 for \$1.75(to cover postage)	
rCvN Lalendars - \$1.50 each	1510/11/511/11/11/11/11/11/11
	ח חתחבוחה ה
Make checks payable to Friends of Children of Vietnam.	OF CHILDDEN
Mail to: FCVN	OF CHILDREN
600 Gilpin .	OF WIFT BLANA
Denver, Colo. 80218	OF VIET NAM

Enclosed are names and addresses of friends who are also interested in helping the children.

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

181 Truong Minh Ky Saigon, Viet-Nam

Friends,

So much has happened in the past two weeks. In that short period of time we have moved into the FCVN CENTER, released three shipments of supplies, visited and distributed supplies to various orphanages from the Delta to Qui Nhon. Most exciting of all, we now have twenty-four children in our custody and promises of nearly limitless numbers of children badly needing the love and security of a family.

THE FCVN CENTER The CENTER is housed in a large old French villa in one of the poorest parts of Saigon. Some repairs are necessary, of course, but we are all of the feeling that the place has a great potential. There are actually two buildings on our lacre of land, with a total of ten bedrooms, a living room, dining room, seven bathrooms and a kitchen. The yard, a real rarity in Saigon, provides room for the children to play as well as room for a garden and perhaps a few trees. A shed in the back will give limitless storage space. We are now cleaning, painting etc. in preparation for the full capacity of sixty children we hope to house. Because of the high crime rate, we mist top our twelve foot fince with barbed wire as well as see that the house is never left unguarded. All in all, it seems to be an ideal place for storage, staff, offices and children.

Our adoption staff, Cherie and Thuy, went down to the delta last weekend, to investigate the possibility and numbers of children needing to be adopted by FCVN families. They returned appalled by the conditons they found. Cherie, founder of the Illinois Charter of FCVN, arrived in Veet Nam two weeks ago. She told me "For over two years I've been giving the hard to believe statistics of 80% mortality rate. But nothing can describe the feelings which overcame us as we personally witnesses the unmerciful deaths of som many innocent children." In one orphanage, every child had obvious signs of nutritional deficiency. The Sister in charge said they just do not have enough nilk to go around, so what they do have is heavily watered down.

When the Sisters heard that FCVN had families waiting to adopt orphaned children, they acted as if we were offering life itself. In many ways, we were:

The expedition returned with eleven tiny babies, nine under one month old. Fvery one of the nine weiched under 4.5 pounds. Speaking as a Nurse, there was no doubt in Cherie's mind that, left in the poverty and disease stricken places from which they came, most, if not all, would die. There are literally thousands more like these to whom we will give a chance \*\* at life.

OF CHILDREN
OF VIET NAM

181 Truong Minh Ky Saigon, Viet-Nam

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One of these children is a six year old boy here who everyone has fallen in love with. The only English word he knows is Mommy, and he says it with a smile from ear to ear as he runs into the arms of anvone of us coming through the gate. (nly rarely does he let through a glimbse of his past life. His mother apparently was killed by VC when he was four years old, barely old enough to beg for himslef. He lived in the streets for a year and a half. By that time a nun fround him in the market, he, at the age sof five, had experienced more hardships than most of us know in a lifetime. Now he is with us, people who care. For the first time in his life he knows what it is like to be a loving and loved member of a family.

But he is far away at times. Often when the other children are playing ball, he will be alone in a corner of the yard, slowly picking the petals from a flower.

I was awakened by gunshots a few nights ago. In itself it is nothing unusual. Then I heard my friend's unmistakeable cry. He held me tightly when I came to his side and

through an interpreter I learned what had happened. He had thought he saw his mother. He reached out as she came to him, wanting to be taken into her arms. He was almost there when the sound of the guns came through the window. At the same instant his mother disappeared and he began to cry.

Some could sit back and say "Who cares, it was just a dream." Well, he cares, and a generous family in the United States cares. If all goes well he will be in his new home by Christmas, far from the tragedies of his life here.

There are 21,000 orphans in orphanages in Viet Nam. Five percent have American fathe They all need a friend.

A young man came in the other day after seeing our sign on the gate. He told us he was a fourth year medical student and wanted to Volunteer his time to help care for the children. He even plans to bring a guitar on Sundays and sing for them. How nice I thoughthis world would sure be better off if we had more people like him. Then we heard his story. His mother was killed by the VC when he was very young. His father, a soldier, was unable to care for him. When he became sick his father abandoned him at an orphanage in DaNang. There, someone cared enough to enable him to cling to life. As he grew older he attended school and now, because of hardwork and the generousity shown to him throughout his life, he is able to become a doctor. And why? So he can give, give others a chance at life he was so fortunate to receive. It is with a warm heart that I remember this man each time I wake a four a.m. to the sound of a crying babe.

Fach life is so important. I guess that is why we have become

so involved with each child that comes into the CENTER, and each who is destined to grow up in an aorphanage. I often ask myself which one will be the young doctor returning to help those less fortunate.

As you sit back in a comfortable chair, stomach full of a mice dinner, watching the flames dancing in your fireplace, ask yourself what you have done. How many future doctors have you given a chance at life to? How much better will the world be because you were here?

OF CHILDREN
OF VIET NAM

181 Truong Minh Ky Saigon, Viet-Nam

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### A Trip to the Delta - cc.

As we left Saigon the air became clearer, the exhaust fumes of thousands of hondas and the hustle of a million refugees was far behind us. Viet Nam is a lush green country and the people we passed working along the roadside were brown from the sunshine.

People drive in Saigon as if ther is no tomorrow. Hondas often buzz down the streets on the wrong side and each driver fights for the right of way. The countryside is no exception - except one is going at a greater speed!! I could divide our trip into a documentary on what we did and didn't hit. Under the first you would find such items as a honda, pedicab, etc, - under the latter a pig, man, child, tank, etc.

Our drivers name was Thanh - he is a Captain in the AFVN and we rented him and his decreped old van for two days. Thuy, our Vietnamese social worker, muself, and Linh, one of our child care workers, made up the foursecme.

We left early as a trip to the Delta has its own built in hazards. One must pass through VC held territory and through areas where the Viet Nam war is a reality. We were always very aware of the war and the sounds of guns firing was never far away. Everywhere ther were soldiers and each bridge is carefully guarded. We passed a school which was bombed only a few weeks ago and 23 children were killed.

To reach our destination it is necessary to cross two bodies of water by ferry. We stopped at the ferry and immediately we were surrounded by masses of people all selling fruits and juices. They stared couriously at me. We stopped for lunch at a roadside stand and I was served firts. Possible because I am American my plate was heaped twice as full as the Vietnamese that accompanied me.

Our first stop was at Diem Phuc orphanage in Vinh Long. Diem Phuc is one of FCVN's Fost Orphanages and has just relocated in Vinh Long. The building itself is large but inadequate to house children though improvements are obviously being made. In the dark toddler room the children lie listlessly in their cribs or on the bare cement floor. The poverty of this orphanage was obvious.

We then visited St. Pauls' orph. in Vinh Long, and accalainted the Sisters with FCVN and its program. The children at St. Pauls show some obvious signs of improper diet however we were impressed by the cleanliness of the facility and the dedication of the Sisters. All of the infants were a pasty white color and appeared to be anemic and deficient of vitamins and iron. Ther heads were charactherstically covered with boils. The sister explained that they did not have enough milk and therefore watered down what they did have. We left with a promise for future help and agreed to stop back in on our way home and pick up four infants all very ill. One little girl who was four months old was critically malnoursihed.

FRIENDS

OF CHILDREN

OF VIET NAM

181 Truong Minh Ky Saigon, Viet-Nam

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We then stopped at Good Shepard to renew old friendships. This beautiful center ran by Irish Catholic Nuns was a joy to visit. The grounds are lovely and flowers are everywhere. The nursery where the children are kept is spotless, fresh and clean. Good Shepard also serves as a training facility for wayward girls and is ran by the same order of nums as those at Binh Trieu.

We were back on the road and on our way to Can Tho. It was necessary to cross over on another ferry and it was growing later. We were welcomed by Sister Eugenia at Providence orphanage and g we were delighted to find that the directorices of all the providenc orphanages were having a conference in can tho, so we were able to meet many of the sisters that have received support from FCVN.

We left can the early in the morning with four tiny babies. Two ill and one a beautiful little baby with a hare lip cleft palate. We headed for SaDec Providence orphanage and picked up two littel boys promised to faimilies in Wisconsin. Then back to Vinh Long where we picked up six more children - one a lovely black one year old who had a severe ear infection and was burning with fever.

We made it home safely with our precious cargo and have spent the past week struggling to keep them and our other babies alive. The malnourished four month old died last night. It was difficult for all of us to accept. We had thought she was progressing and was beginning to have hope for her future. Two of our tiniest babies from can tho are in the hospital in incubators. We visity tem each day - hoping - praying - that they wil show some signs of improvement. We are always told that they are "holding" not better, not worse.

With good formula, vitamins, and loving care, the rest of the children are showing noticeable improvement. Our staff care for them with ove and we live for the day when they will have their own families.

This is an excerpt from Cheri Clark who is our director of adoption in Viet nam.

FRIENDS

OF CHILDREN

OF VIET NAM

### FCVNEWSLETTER

nds of Children of Vietnam Gilpin er, Colorado 80218 ) 321-8251/321-8262

May 15, 1974 Editor: Betsy Schneider Typist: Carol Terry



Is were the friends

Hoa and Linh remember the American GIs. To them, and to hundreds of orphaned children throughout Vietnam, the GIs were the good guys. Hoa and Linh remember when the GIs came to their orphanage to rebuild the part that the monsoons washed away. They remember a Christmas at the orphanage — a fading joyful image in their minds — when the GIs brought toys and food and everyone was happy. They remember when the GIs came to paint the orphanage and when they built a swing for the children — Hoa had the first ride.

The GIs gave a lot to the orphans of Vietnam. They gave clothing, food, toys and money to the orphanages. They gave time, attention and love to the orphans. Military doctors and nurses gave medical assistance and supplies and tried to help the Sisters with their overpowering task of caring for so many sick and dying children.

Now that the GIs are gone, who will take their place?

Will the orphanage buildings be left to crumble, the children to hunger, falter and die? Sister Marie Angela of Sacred Heart Orphanage, Da Nang, said in a letter. "Now with the departure of our good friend benefactors GIs we lost a great deal, we miss terribly their good presence."

It is the hope of Friends of Children

etnam to fill the terrible void created by sparture of the American GIs. Through the donated by concerned Americans, the time by volunteers in collecting, packing and ing supplies, the support given via the r Orphanage Plan, etc., FCVN hopes to reand exceed the efforts of the GIs to bring and health to the orphans of Vietnam. h and Hoa can't live on memories. Will you them?



Hoa and Linh

### FOP

The Friends of Children of Viet Nam Foster Orphanage Program was instituted in January of this year with the goal of providing a minimum monthly income of five hundred (\$500) per month to participating orphanages and centers. It is the hope of F.C.V.N. that this income will allow the orphanages to purchase food or medicine, to employ Nationals to help care for the children, to hire teachers, to purchase poultry or livestock to be raised by the orphanage, to allow for day care, or to allow for or accomplish anything that the staff of the orphanage deems

beneficial to the children they serve.

The Foster Orphanage Program is a sponsorship program whereby a sponsor commits a ten dollar (\$10), per month, donation to the orphanage of his choice from the list of participating orphanages. It is our goal to obtain fifty sponsors per orphanage. The staff of the orphanage writes one letter about every six weeks to the sponsors telling them of the activities of their orphanage. In recognition of the fact that fifty sponsor letters would be a great burden to the orphanage staffs in terms of time, F.C.V.N. provides each orphanage with a co-ordinator in one of the F.C.V.N. chapters. The co-ordinator duplicates and mails a copy of the staff's letter to each of that orphanage's sponsors: she also collects the monthly donations, makes monthly reports, and forwards the total to Viet Nam.

In March of 1974, we have a total of one hundred and eighty-three sponsors and the total of our March donations for the program was a fantastic, Three Thousand, One Hundred and Fifteen Dollars!! We are copying two letters from the orphanages on these two pages for you to share. We are hoping that many of you concerned

people will join our program.

Dear Sponsors:

We just received our first check of \$158 from FOSTER DRPHANAGE PLAN yesterday.

To you then, dear kind Friend Benefactors, our deep gratitude and heartfelt thanks for your kindness and generosity. How we appreciate your assistance! With the high cost of living here, your generous donation of \$158 will help us to buy more food for the children.

May God bless you, your dear ones for such efforts done for the kids. We keep praying so that the FOP Organization may get bigger and more fruitful in favor of

our poor needy ones.

Everything is alright with us here. Last week it was very cold here, happily we had enough warm clothes for the kids; the weather is getting nicer now and very soon the heat will come back, it will be a big problem for us. Most of the time we don't have electricity here, our next door, the refugees people, are giving us much trouble by cutting off the wire

always, we don't know how to care for the children when summer comes. May the Good Lord provide all our needs.

Now, dear sponsors, I have a very good news to communicate to you: We are specially delighted to see since a few months our many babies progress extraordinary, they grow up so fast, can sit up by themselves and are trying to babble, such thing very seldom happens since I have been here; we really are very much encouraged of this improvement. We can see how the Good Lord takes care of His little ones. Thanks be to Him and to you too for your co-operation with us in Lord's work. Thanks once again for everything. May God give you more joy, happiness in helping His little ones.

Loving and prayerful wishes from all the children and sisters at Sacred Heart.

Sincerely yours, Sister Marie Angela





Mrs. and Mr., Firstly, I am represented for the Board overnor and the children of our Diem Phuc anage (at Vinh Long) to offer you our ere and grateful thanks. Thus, I am very to hear about you by introducing of nds of Children of Viet Nam. Of course, helping and thinking of our orphanage my all members happy, especially pleasure ope of the abandoned children here. This is the first letter, I try to write telling you something what we are doing here. As you know, we received a large r of abandoned new-born children. Needto say. I am certain you understood ly about their miserable situations. really a difficult problem for our rs. Because we are taking care of the l children in the not good condition of ountry that the war is ravaging cruelly e need to feed them. Moreover, the war causes many victims. For this reason, suffering because I am barely able

ep enough necessaries for nourg children daily. I have always
of: foods, clothing and medi, especially money for developur orphanage, which is today
than 300 children. These urgent
saries above are my real and
ent anxieties. Therefore, for
iving of children I wrote and
at F.C.V.N. and ask you for

I could say to you that our are depended on your helps. ieve that you understand well.

THE SECTION ASSESSED.

Children of Sacred Heart Orphanage (See letter from Sister Marie Angela on preceding page)

Dear sponsors, may I present you our plan for developing our establishment for orphan and destitute children:

PROSPECTIVE EXPENSES FOR THE BUILD-ING OF THE DILM PHUC ORPHANACE

Wooden sticks for foundation \$ 600 Gravel 800 Little stone 700 Cement (1.000 bags) 4000 Iron bars (all kinds) 3200 Workers 3500

The total sum of approximate cost is: U.S. \$12,000.00 dollars.

Dear Mrs. and Mr., although
we are living in the far country
from you, but we are always thinking of you, the sponsors of our
children. We know we are grateful
to you. And once more time, will
you accept our best thanks.

Sincerely, Sister Mary

Sister Mary Nguyen Thi Tai of Diem Phuc Orphanage at Vinh Long stands with the children near the site of the proposed new building.



# vietnamere reciper

### FRYE CABBAGE

1 med. head cabbage (2 lbs.) sliced thin

1 med. onion, sliced

1/2 1b. pork, sliced

1 clove garlic, mashed

2 tablespoons lard

2 teaspoons MSG (seasoning)

2 teaspoons dried onion flakes

Melt lard over light heat in frying skillet. Put garlic and onion flakes in skillet until they turn light brown. Add sliced pork, fry 10 minutes and season to taste. Add 1 cup water, then MSG, next add sliced cabbage and onion. Cover, and cook for 10 minutes--longer if desired.

#### BEEF RICE SOUP . IRLA ELV

1 cup rice

14 cups water 1 lb. trimmed beef, sliced thin DATE A STATE OF THE OR

1.1b. ground beef

4 tablespoons fish sauce

· 學也 海山 為中国海州省北

4 green onions, chopped 3 teaspoons MSG

2 teaspoons black pepper TREE LOOK OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE

Wash rice, add water and cook for an hour and a half on medium heat. Remove lid when it is boiling. Season with salt or fish sauce. Add beef, MSG, end cook for 10 minutes. Add onion, pepper. Cover, turn off heat, let set for a minute and serve. Please remember that the water will evaporate, so add to water as necessary to keep amount near 14 cups.

> GA NUONG CHANH (Lemon-Flavored Chicken)

2 broiler-fryers grated peel of 1 lemon 4 green onions, chopped 1 medium onion, chopped 1 tablespoon fish sauce

1 tablespoon soya sauce

1 teaspoon sugar

% cup sherry

1 tablespoon oil

Bone chicken and cut meat into 1-inch square pieces. Mix all remaining ingredients and pour over chicken in large mixing bowl. Cover and marinate at least 2 hours or overnight in refrigerator. String chicken pieces tightly on skewers. Bake in preheated 300 degree oven for 25 minutes. Turn and baste occasionally. Serve with steamed rice and fish sauce. Makes four servinos.

### (Meat Rolls)

Rice paper wrapping 1/1b. ground pork butt 1 can crabmeat or 1 pkg. frozen crabmeat

% 1b. bean sprouts (shredded carrots can be substituted)

1 oz. bean thread, soaked & cut up

l large onion, chopped

1 bunch green onions, diced

3 teaspoons fish sauce (available at ... oriental markets)

Black pepper and apply to see the second

1 egg

the Matters with an object prints. Oil for deep frying

Put ground meat, crabmeat, chopped bean sprout, bean thread, onions, fish sauce, dash of pepper and egg into large mixim bowl. Mix thoroughly until almost a paste consistency.

Put some hot water and about 2 tablespoons of vinegar in a large flat pan. Dampen the rice paper wrappings, one at a time. Put the dampened rice paper on a plate and place about 2 to 3 tablespoonfuls of the filling in the middle, in the shape of a roll. Roll the rice paper around the ingredients like an egg roll. Deep fry in hot oil until crisp. Makes about 30 egg rolls.

Since rice paper is very fragile, some people use wonton skins as a substitute. However, this does not give the extraordinary crispness of the rice paper (which is available locally).

## The Wall

Driving down Troung Minh Ky Road. one comes to a compound surrounded by on eight foot concrete well. The sign on the gate reads "Friends of Children of Viet Nam, BAN HUU CUA TRE EM VIET-AM". As we enter the gate we see a arge expanse of grass, trees, and lowers -- a vard such as this is a rare sight in the Saigon area and one of the easons that this compound was chosen to house the efforts of F.C.V.N. To the left, toward the rear of the combound, we see a two-story building, the ain house. Off to the right and urther back we see a three-story uilding; the residents of this house are mainly children, the children for whom the grass, trees and flowers are intended.

The compound's adult residents are all busily engaged in the business of Friends of Children of Viet Nam. hey receive, sort, store and deliver upplies and money F.C.V.N. members end from all over the U.S. They oversee the Foster Orphanage Plan, contacting and assisting participating orphanages, delivering monthly payments, ssuring that the sponsor letters are ent. They also seek out new candidates or possible participation in the Plan. rite and submit reports on these orphanages for the Program Co-ordinator in the .S., locate orphans available for doption, and house and care for these children as their adoptions proceed through the Vietnamese courts and the doption machinery in the U.S. They are starting a training program for lietnamese women who wish to be trained s child care workers for orphanages. They are also developing new programs and methods for F.C.V.N. to be used in expanding our ability to help, in an effective manner, the children that our organization seeks to aid.

Inside the two-story building \*
there is a wall, a bare wall, that
has been set aside for a very special
purpose. It will be a statement to
all who enter and the children that
live there, that the people whose
names appear on the wall are concerned
and interested in the welfare of the
Children of Viet Nam. It will also
serve as a daily reminder to our
staff of volunteers, that we are
morally and spiritually supportive
of their endless efforts on behalf
of the children and F.C.V.N.

We are asking you, our readers, who care and are interested in the welfare and plight of the children, to help us fill this wall, and then start on another. The decor of F.O.V.N. - Saigon will be "concern" or "positive graffiti". If you will join us, please fill out the statement below (which will be kept in a book for all to read in the center) and the signature tear-off and send to Friends of Children of Viet Nam. 600 Gilpin, Denver, Colorado, 80218, along with one dollar to help to defray maintenance costs of the center. The signature will be affixed to the wall. We will publish periodic progress pictures of the wall in this newsletter. Won't you tell the children that you care? Any the term of the A comment of the second second second

I am concerned and interested in the plight and welfers of the children of Vist Nam.

## orphanage news



Dear FCVN.

A million thanks to you and all our FCVN friends for so many generous efforts to help our babies! Just to let you see them in pictures—only—that's about all we can do—unless you come and pay us a visit. Please let all our FCVN friends see babies (sorry on paper only) now at least they can see who their little friends are! where all their love and care are centered on.

They're behaving very well. With your help they've survived many a dangerous crisis! The response is very good. Some of them grow like weeds overnight. March 4 our beautiful Bach Lan (7-8 mos. baby girl) left for Colorado, Boulder, (Berardi) family-hope she's not hijacked for we love and miss her so. Say hello and hi to all our good FCVN. God bless you all!

Eagerly awaiting your reply!

Sister M. Ursula.

Vinh Long



Dear Friends.

How happy we are to get a letter from you. We feel fine to read it. It is lucky for my orphanage gotten as your Foster Orphanage Program. I love all my orphans and want to help them being happy, lovely. We are very worried about the financial orphanage, and now you give us your big hands, we can't describe how happy we are to hear that.

Since the U.S. soldiers left, we have to support children everything that we can't make by curselves, such things as milk, clothes, shoes, rice, food, books, medicine... We now grow vegetables in my small garden, besides we bought a fruit farm to cultivate in order that we can get a little income to nourish children. We bought one car and use it always, therefore it was ruined and had in garage for repair many times. It isn't very good and we need a new car.

Supplies is less and less from government, but we get more and more children and we try to do very hard to bring them an easy living, and we can't do as we wish.

We want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for getting my orphanage as your Foster Orphanage Program. I do hope and pray for you to be wealthy and take my orphanage as your own one.

Sincerely, Sister Mary Rose de Lima

Dear Friends,

We would like to thank you heartily for your kindness shown to our Providence Orphanage at Khanh-Hung (Soc Trang). With this money we can get 255.000 plasters. It means we are able to go on our work for the new building. We have planned to enlarge it, because until now our big children haven't had any place to play and to eat. They play and eat in the drying-room. During the dry season, they can play outside; but during the rainy season, it's a pity.

7

are obliged to stay inside in the l room. It's not agreeable. How very wonderful it was to receive fine gift so generous. Words can't ribe our joy and gratitude toward FCVN. You were so nice to us. You wanted to know what we need for new building? Actually, we need only money to buy materials. We have ady bought some cement, pieces of , sand, mails etc., without paying. an pay little by little. When our building is finished, we shall send picture of it and tell you what we later for the new building. But can send anything you like and you k necessary for our orphans. Many thanks also for your supplies ood and clothing we received from er, Colorado, and from you. Please ey our best regards and gratitude to the people who worked and will work for our new building. Our prayers thoughts go always with you and your rous efforts.

> Gratefully, Sister Sylvie Soc Trang

Friends,
My name is Bernadus NGUYEN VAN DE,
tholic priest of My Tho Diocese,
h is a part of the Republic of South
Nam. I have been an Administrator
great center of the ageds and poors
6,500 Vietnamese that most of them
from Cambodia because of the war and
er. Presently, they are living in
r tents, situated on the airfield,
ll months. They have not enough

medicine, foods and clothing. Certainly, it is never easy to write an application for help of this sort and it is particularly difficult for me because I have never had to do one before. As you know, because of the war, ours were ruined almost everything. We have an elementary school with 750 children. And unfortunately, it has been closed because we have had no money for paying for the mistress each month.

Moreover, we have a Minh Duc
Orphanage with 125 children: 82 boys
and 43 girls. There are 90 children
that their parents no can feed them.
And 35 children have no parents and
relatives. For, in blood battles their
mothers and fathers were killed. We
have tried to feed them, but right now
we are desperate for funds to tide us
over the future months until our elementary school opened up again. Truly we
are in the hopeless situation.

But, it is fortunate we are hearing about your Friends of Children of Viet
Nam. We hope you could save us away
from this not good status. So, may we ask you some necessaries for elementary school and especially orphanages, such as:

-Amount of money for each month

or year
-Sponsors for 35 children no parents

-Medicine and clothing
Will you forgive us for having
disturbed you. We are always grateful
to you, and will you accept our best
thanks. Because of the urgency, we
have to count on you, please do not
let us down.

Fr. Bernadus Minh Duc

T ME IN	
Enclosed is my donation of \$	to help the children.
Foster Orphanage Plan (\$10.00/mo. comm I would like to join in the support of I will send \$10/mo. by the 20th of eac	orphanage.
1974 F.C.V.N. membership fee (\$1.00/pe	rson).
ESS 1 150 ST BE OF ST ST ST ST	Make check payable to Friends of Children of Viet Nam
	Mail to: F.C.V.N. 600 Gilpin Denver, Colo. 80218

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Friends of Children of Viet Nam has begun a membership drive, with the Board of Director's decision to assess the membership fee for this year at one dollar. A member is defined in our by-laws as "A person who expresses an interest in the purpose and objectives of the corporation provided that the Board of Directors may require as a condition for membership the payment of such an amount of annual dues as the Board of Directors may from time to time fix and determine to be necessary."

The membership fee was set at a low figure to encourage as many interested people as possible to officially join Friends of Children of Viet Nam in its efforts to aid orphaned and abandoned children in Viet Nam. We would like our membership to encompass people from all over the United States, from all walks of life, and from as many generations as possible. We would like to point to our membership rolls as evidence that the American people have not forgotten the youngest and

most tragic victims of the war.

We will attempt to do all in our power to keep you, our members, informed on any subjects concerning the children of Viet Nam. We will attempt to share with you the work of the people who care for the children day after day, their joys, their hopes, and their sorrows and needs. We will attempt to provide you with as much historical and cultural background as possible, especially valuable to adoptive parents of Vietnamese children. Our work in Viet Nam will be conveyed to you by way of published reports in the newsletters, written by our Cverseas Staff.

Membership entitles you to vote for the members of the Board of Directors (this also, at present, requires attendance at the annual meeting) and receive our newsletter. Membership, most important of all, allows you to add your name to those of others, like yourself, who care about the children and the work of Friends of Children of Viet Nam. Won't you become a member of F.C.V.N?

Friends of Children of Viet Nam 600 Gilpin Denver, Colorado 80218 Non Profit Orga Bulk Rate U.S. Postage

PAID

Littleton, Colo. 80120 Permit No. 206 Dear Friends, team betasted bas betasted and bullets and most a

How many times you - the adoptive parents of Vietnamese children and friends of the children of Viet Nam - have received letters from F.C.V.N. with that salutation! The reasons for the letters - varied - to tell you of the progress of our shared work in Viet Nam, to send you the information needed to begin the adoption of a Vietnamese child, the letters that one by one verified the completion of each step necessary toward the assignment of your child, the joyful letter sent via your agency that brought to you that first picture of a child - your child, the letters after the arrival of your child that carried practical bits of knowledge, the letters that have kept you informed of the past year's happening regarding the lives of our precious "Babylift" children. Many of these letters were sent to you by Carol Westlake, who was F.C.V.N.'s Adoption Director. This letter is sent to you with the sorrowful news of Carol's death.

This letter is sent to share with you our deep-felt loss of a woman whom to many of you was only a signature on letters and paperwork involving your child. This is my somewhat meager attempt to pay final tribute to a dear and much loved friend. I want to share with you the knowledge of how much more than the mere signature of an agency director Carol Westlake's signature represented.

Carol and her husband, Al, began their efforts to aid children in Viet Nam more than five years ago when they began the process to adopt their sons Tommy and Thien. Carol gave slide shows to help bring the plight of the children to the public's attention; she packed box after box of food, medicine and clothing for shipment to Viet Nam; as an R.N. she assisted in the obtaining and purchasing of the medicines so vital to the children's lives;



she herself had and assisted at fund raisers to raise the money so desperately needed by the people working with the children; she served on the Board of Directors of F.C.V.N.; she was an integral part and a motivating force behind the re-establishment of F.C.V.N.'s adoption program in Viet Nam in 1974; she travelled to Viet Nam on two different occasions to lend her assistance to the Overseas Staff and to escort children on their long journey home; she worked hours without end during the crisis in Viet Nam and the ensuing "Babylift"; she spoke to many of you to bring

Carol Westlake and daughter Thuy in Viet Nam in May of 1974.

Page Two March 16, 1976

you the glad tidings of the arrival of your son or daughter; in the months following the "Babylift" she spent hour after hour with a caseload that would have staggered and defeated most people. The volunteer hours that Carol gave and gave to the children in Viet Nam, to your children and mine, can never be measured - but they stand now as an awesome tribute to a woman whose deep love and concern for children motivated her to heights of love and giving that few are able to reach.

Coupled with her giving to others, Carol was a devoted and wonderful mother. She leaves seven children, all unique, loving, giving, happy individuals who are themselves an immense tribute to Carol's great human worth and the love with which Carol and her husband, Al, shared and nutured their family.

One of the drawbacks of being a licensed agency, as opposed to a parents' assistance group, is the loss of personal contact. The image that is often invoked with the words "agency" or "agency director" is one of impersonal bureaucracy: this was one of the frustrations of Carol's life. How many times she would say, "I only wish the parents knew that we're not a bureaucracy, that we're adoptive parents and have been through all the anxieties they're experiencing, that we feel for them and that we love those babies, too."

I hope that in some small way now you do know that Carol Westlake was so much more than an impersonal signature upon a letter or a document. That you are now able to recognize the caring, devotion and personal sacrifice that each signature represented. That perhaps the love Carol put in with each hour she gave will motivate us all to give that little bit extra of ourselves that might make a difference in the life of a child in need. One act of kindness to touch a child done in the memory of Carol Westlake would be the most meaningful memorial to Carol that you could pay.

F.C.V.N.; she was an otterral care and a motivating force behind the re-establishment of F.C.V.N. adoption program in Viet Nam in the travelled to Viet Nam on two different occasions to lend her assistance to the Overseas Staff and to escort children on their journey home; she worked hours

Carol Westlake and daughter Thuy

Doing grey HỘI BẠN THIỀU-NHI VIỆT-NAM FRIENDS OF CHILDREN OF VIÊT-NAM SAIGON ADDRESS .

HEADQUARTERS : 800. GILPIN ST. DENVER, COLO, 80218 TEL, (303) 321 - 8262

Sopt 1

24 - 26, 3UI-THI-XUAN GIA-BINH - S.V.N. TEL. 43.162

The first time I met Doug Gray, I was impressed by the mere fact of what he was trying to do. Without a doubt, the handicapped are one of the least popular and consequently, most needing causes in Viet Mam. It is those handicapped children to which Loug Gray has dedicated his life.

An ex-British Medical Corpsman, he came to Viet Nam five years ago and began working with the mentally disturbed at Phu May Mospital. Today his cherry red nose and the distinctive sparkle in his eyes gives little indication of the horrors he has lived, working with twisted bodies and lost minded we only experience in nightmares.

Now Doug Gray is on his own, tackling the lost children of Viet Nam, those stricken with polio, cerebral palsy, and other crippling diseases. Taking children often found tied to bed posts in a dark back room of an orphanage, he brings them to his Saigon Center and begins the long slow process of therapy, operations, more therapy. Doug plays a role in every step along the way, from surgeons assistant to floor scrubber. For his dedication he receives not a penny. (He cut himself off his \$25 per month living allowance because of rising costs) The satisfaction which keeps him going comes from watching the children begin to use once shriveled legs and begin to. walk for the first time in their lives. The latest bunch to come here was a group of 27 I picked up from rural orphanages" he described, "I carried every one of them through that gate. Now 20 are walking."

A doctor I spoke with recently was also impressed. seen that man do things with legs I'd have never thought possible. Considering the stress and conditions that man works under, I'd grant him the title of miracle worker."

Things have never been easy for Doug, but lately the economic situation has become so severe that for the first time he's had to seriously ask himself if he'll be able to stay. Initially funded by the Viet Nam Orphanage Project, he currently is trying to make ends meet with a trickle of funds from the American Korean Foundation. But it just isn't working out.

"I've had to cut down from 47 to 33 kids in the past week and a half, and lay off two workers. Nost of the kids I sent away need more treatments, but I just couldn't afford to keep them. My food budget is three or four dollars per day; thats for forty of us.

Living like this is hurting myself and the kids. Unless something happens soon, I'll have to send them all back to the orphanages."

I asked him what he would do if he had more available funds.

"First I'd improve the diet of these kids" he told me.

You know how important that is during the post operative stages.

Then I'd bring back some of those kids I had to give up last week.

Fifty dollars a month could do that."

"Fifty dollars", I thought to myself, "for a life time of walking. That must be the bargain of the century." "What then?" I queried.

"Well, before I could take in more kids, I'd have to fix up the terrace" be dreamed, referring to a huge roof top porch, already covered, which Doug hopes someday will become a recreational therapy area. He built the only swing and set of parallel bars himself, as well as some childrens furniture. It seemed a waste for all that space to be currently unused. But Doug pointed out the broken tiles to me and what a hazard they are to children who must skoot themselves along the ground.

"If that could be fixed up we could give kids something

they'll never know otherwise, the ability to walk."

\*110

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4 100

MAG.

The value of work by a man like Doug Gray is clear enough. But what may not be clear is the state of jeopardy his work is in today. Without help he may not be here tomorrow. And if he's not here tomorrow, those children won't walk for a lifetime.



10/14 / #3

## Orphanage News

A LETTER FROM DOUG GRAY ...

It was a very pleasant surprise to receive your letter and cheque. I am replying immediately to put you in the picture of what we are doing to help the handicapped children of Viet Nam. Our center that over the past two years was put together bit by bit from materials that we that we scrounged from construction workers, the G.I.s and the Embassy and at our peak we were looking after 47 children with polio, cerebral palsy, and six (6) other children who were crippled daily. We took orphans from the following institutions: Go Vap, Sancta Maria, Hoi Duc Anh, Binh Tuy, Cantho Providence Orphanage, Montagnard for village new Dalat, extremely poor families. Go Vap is probably the largest orphanage in Viet Nam and houses 900 children...on Monday another 13 year old boy will be going into the Saigon Hospital to have surgery on a badly malformed hand. Surgery will be done, in part, by Dr. Markally an American Plastic Orthopedic Surgeon. Next week we shall be receiving another 12 orphans with polio from the Delta region of Viet Nam. I will close now but in a week or so I'll pen another letter with more information and the names of children ... . Douglas H. Gray, R.N.









TAN MAI. . . "We think of your kindness very often. We write English
very poor. We say nothing but we
send you many thanks to you and to
the generous benefactors for the
wonderful donation, which we have
recently received through the
kindness of the Mr. and Mrs. Clark
in Saigon every month since
January, 1974. This is a great
help for us in our mission.

"At the present, we have 141 children and still continue to receive the unfortunate children. As you know, the war had destroyed so much of Viet Nam and the result is terrible. We don't know how long this will last. There are so many families in which the parents lost their jobs since the Army left Viet Nam. In addition, the prices of living rise so high especial: milk, rice, soap, material, etc. Many men died by war and the women obliged to abandon their children. Some of them are brought to the orphanage; others, sad to say, are found in the way or in the market place. Most of our children came to us by this way.

"Please be assured of our faithful remembrance of you and our benefactors in our daily humble prayers. God bless you and keep you in his care. Very sincerely yours, Sister Rosalie O.P."

973

## Chapter News

Dear Sponsors:

As some of you know, my husband and I just returned from a trip to South Vietnam, where we visited many orphanages, and made the long awaited trip to Sadec to see the children we have been caring for. Words seem very insufficient to describe the feelings that came over us as we drove into the orphanage yard. felt as if it was all a dream, until Sister Desiree came running out of a building waving her arms at us. I have never felt such emotion in my life. As I got out of the car and we put our arms around each other, the tears that had been welled up inside me for so long came to my eyes; and as I looked at Sister Desiree, I saw that her eyes were filled with them too. I could feel the love and emotion going from one of us to the other. They speak of energy going from one person's body to another and I swear to you that I could feel it. Iove is the most overpowering emotion of all, and if you let it take over your entire being without any reservations, the feeling is overwhelming.

We spent that entire day at Sadec -- stayed overnight and left the next morning. During that time, Sr. Desiree spoke constantly of her dear sponsors back in the United States and how much she loved them and how greatful she was to them. She told me of the many things that she has been able to do with the money that you have sent. The Sisters and all the children pray for all of their sponsors every day and night and think of you often. It was apparent that this was not just talk, because as she introduced us to the children and the old folks who live at Sadec, each in his or her turn thanked us

for all the help that we had given and asked us to please thank you-their sponsors--for them.

Shortly after we got there, Sister Desiree took us on a tour of the orphanage. What a thrill that was...to meet all those beautiful children and to see with our own eyes all of the grounds. One thing that I noticed was that in all the pictures that I have received I hadn't seen a handicapped child, nor did I notice any children with the typical skin infections that seem so rampant in Vietnam. Obviously these things just do not show up on print as there were so many children with legs so thin that I wondered that they would hold their bodies up, eyes so filled with the starvation for love of a family and thin bodies lacking for so long the food necessary for the strong growth of a healthy body. I saw one girl in particular, about 10 years old, who was completely bald. She had not one hair on her head, and it had not been shaved. I wondered what atrocity had happened to this child that caused this to happen to her. I saw one child who had to have been at least one year old because he had many teeth; his legs were no larger than a newborns and both curved in toward each other. Everything at Sadec was kept spotlessly clean and yet there were the skin infections, on the scalp, and on the bodies. Why should any child have to live with these things? I kept telling myself that we really didn't cause all of this; but in the next moment I know that even though we were not directly responsible, we would be, if we didn't do something about it. Ignorance of the situation is one thing, but when your eyes have seen and your ears have heard and you turn your back, you are committing as great a crime and sin as the one who started it in the first place. Each of us has much we can give and share with others.

The grounds that the orphanage sits on are quite lovely, with the fruit trees and all the green vegetation.

(Continued from Page 1)

"I felt the penetrating heat, as there are no fans. Fans are desperately needed for the dispensary. The temperature is anywhere from 90° to 100°. The humidity is constantly between 85 and 90."

Gloria's voice seemed to crack a little. She waited and then I saw the distant look in her eyes. "Some of the children," she said, "in cribs will be confined to them forever. Beds are



on small that the children lay doubled up in them. Why? Because there are no other beds. There is no money to purchase the needed cribs or beds. Just as there is not enough help available to attend each and every child's individual needs.

"As I walked by the children, I saw the pleas in their eyes. They reached out to you as if to say: 'Feed Me! Hold Me! Help Me! I ove Me!' I looking into their sad pleading eyes, I fought to hold back the tears that welled in my eyes. Those helpless little children didn't ask for this! They are the innocent ones! They are the suffering ones! Always the sorrow of those children will be in my heart.

"My heart ached as I was able to touch each child but I could not hold them. I had everything I could do to keep my emotions from running away with me as I touched them. All the while, that silent plea was there in their eyes. I vowed that I would never forget them or what I saw. And I promised myself that I would do everything in my power to raise money to ease their suffering.

"Crippled children that were desperately in need of braces and could not have them because there is no money to buy them. A child who sits and watches others run about, but cannot join them. He or she will be confined to that bed or bench unless money can be made available to help buy those braces.

"I saw insects in their rooms because there are no screens on the windows. Insects crawling on the poor helpless bodies of children who could not slap out at them.

"The kitchen was no more than a hole in the wall. There was one flush toilet for all those people.

"I saw the nuns and workers so willing to help. How much could they endure
after working twelve to fourteen hours
a day? I felt that some univeral spirit
gave them a reservoir of atrength to go
on. A strength to reach out beyond themselves to give comfort to these helples:
children.

"At the end of the day I saw a child care attendant sitting exhausted; too tired to go home. I knew the feeling, because my body and my heart ached. I silently vowed again to myself, 'I will never forget you!'







We were lucky enough to taste some of the fruit ourselves ... it might surprise you to know that oranges in Vietnam are green and would put "Sunkist" to shame. None of your money is being wasted. It was evident that the Sisters work very hard to keep the orphanage clean and well kept. They make do with whatever they have and put it to good use. They raise their own chickens and vegetables. All the time that we were there, they worked very hard to show us everything they did. They treate i ur as if we were visiting royalty, and their genuine delicht in seeing us and serving us mate me know that in their eyes, at least, that is exactly what we were.

The next morning when we left, the children all came to cay cond-bye to us. They were all carrying partfolion and on their way to school. Sister seniree toll un that the money that you sponsors sent went to buy there portfolion for the children and now they could go to 9chool. They are so ha; py. They sand songs for ur in the sweetest litt'e voices I've ever heard; and all the while that they were singing, they were looking At us with creat wonder and love in their eyes. Before they left, they all spoke to us in Vietnamese. Sister Desirce toll us that they said, "Thank you for coming to see us, an! for all that you have done for us; but most of all, thank you for being our mommy and daddy." I hope that they understood that the tears in our eyes were tears of joy at their love and heartbreak at our parting. I hope that you will continue to help me so that I may never fail them.

Gloria Johnson WISCONSIN FCVN





-- Photo by Ross Meador --

Dear Friends.

My husband and I spent over two weeks in Vietnam in September. I hope in this letter that I can convey my thoughts and feelings on our trip and tell you something about Vietnam and FCVN's role in aiding its children. It was the most fantastic experience of our lives, and I want to share it with you. I must admit that putting the things that we saw into words is a task that I fear is too great for me. How can I tell you of the hunger that I saw, the eyes looking up pleading for help, the crippled children with no braces, the rotting teeth, the open sores, the bloated stomachs, and the lonely eyes? Most of the time, it was unbearable to see all of these things and have little or no power to do anything about them. We came back more determined than ever to help in anyway that we can. As long as I live, I will not forget those children. I can only hope that you will help us to relieve some of the misery in their lives.

We arrived in Saigon at 11 a.m., Thursday morning, September 12. We got off the plane and were taken by bus to the airport building used for immigration. We thought that we would have trouble getting through as we didn't know what to do or where to go, but someone must have been watching over us as we got right through with no trouble at all ... and there at the end of the line to greet us were several members of the FCVN Saigon staff. Needless to say, we were more than glad to see them.

As soon as we arrived at the FCVN Center, Cheri Clark took us on a tour. She took us to see each section of the entire place and showed us all the babies. She seemed to have a little story to tell us about each one of them.

With love and pride she told how this one and that one had come into the Center and how the entire staff had fought and struggled for this or that one's life. This was one of the things that we noticed immediately—the love and caring for each child. This wasn't just another 8 to 5 job for the staff; they love each one of the children as individuals and that's what is making our Center such a huge success.

We live in such a protected world that it is hard for us here in America to imagine such horrors as we saw while we were in Vietnam. Three children died of the measles while we were there (all three of which were in the hospital at the time they got the measles), a healthy baby one day could be a dead baby the next. I saw at least five mothers give up their babies (something I never want to see again), each mother had tears in her eyes. What is it like to give up a child? What would make a mother do it? I can only believe that they do it in the HOPE that someone somewhere in the world will do something to help their child to a better life than what they are able to give them. Perhaps it could be a nice family who would adopt their child or someone giving money so that their child might eat or sending that child to school. So many people in Vietnam are suffering so greatly from the war; they have NOTHING to give their children except the hope for something better, even if it means they will never see them

It wasn't just the children living in institutions that were suffering. Everywhere we looked there were child-ren-hundreds of them--all over the place. It didn't matter what time of the day or night we went out, there they were. One evening, a friend of ours took us out for dinner. As we were coming out of the restaurant, a boy about eight years old came up to us begging for money. He was filthy dirty and around his neck was the

dirtiest sling I've ever seen, and in it, his infant brother. It was 10:30 at night. I wonder where they slept that night and if the money we gave them was enough for a meal? That same night a young woman ran up to us as we were going for a taxi. She had her baby in her arms and she too wanted money. That child looked as near death as I have ever seen. On our way home, as we were going along the streets, we saw a huge pile of garbage...and there in the middle of it was a young girl looking and searching through that rotten stuff for a morsel of food. On every curb, in every alley, on every street, and in every corner, there were the children. All dirty, hungry, sick, and lonely. All needing something; but who would give it to them?

All in all our trip was very worthwhile...there was much sorrow over all the child-ren that we could never reach, but there was also a joy when we saw ALL that FCVN is doing-for we are performing miracles in Vietnam. Even if only one child reaches home, it has all been worth it...but we are doing so much more than that. That is the pay all of us at FCVN get each night...knowing that because of FCVN somebody's life is going to be better.

Gloria Johnson WISCONSIN FCVN







WORK IN VIETNAM
Director, Cherie Clark holds
baby "Nam" at the center



#### LETTER TO AN UNKNOWN MOTHER

I don't think of you very often. In fact, most of the time I make an effort to keep you out of my thoughts. And yet -- sometimes -just before I drift off to sleep or when I look into my daughter's eyes, I think of you ... I don't know you. Are you a woman? A girl of 16. There are so many reasons why you might have chosen to give up your baby (now so very much our baby). Was it the war, hunger, the realization that you could not provide even the most meager of existances for her, your husband's death ....? It must have been a terribly difficult decision and even harder to live through such an experience. I feel so sad for you...because it is sad to create something so lovely and then to be forced to turn your back on it ... You must have felt some love too...if not for the baby, perhaps for her father. It is true, you bore my daughter, but I am now her mother. I love her, "mother" her, live with her, care for her...surely you must wonder about me. I'd like you to know how very much we love our daughter and how grateful we are to you for being the life force that brought her into being. Thank you for giving her her big black eyes, her soft skin, her happy beautiful spirit, her bright mind. Thank you for giving us this child who is everything we had ever hoped .... As time goes by we will think of each other less and less. You are starting your life anew-and hopefully you will have another chance to gain happiness. We are finding fulfilment for our lives in our daughter. But...now...while you are still very much on my mind ... I want to say "Thank You."

-Diane Nason-



-- Fhoto by B. A. Mantey--



DENVER, COLO. 80218

TEL. (303) 321-8251

### FCUNew/letter

January, 1975
Editor: Jennes M. Jord



I AM SOMEBODY

I am somebody. I am somebody. I may be poor But I am somebody. I may be young But I am somebody. I may be small But I am somebody. My clothes are different My hair is different But I am somebody ..... I am Black, Brown, White I speak a different language But I must be respected Protected, never rejected I am God's child. I am somebody.

-Used on 'Sesame Street'-

"I VOWED NEVER TO FORGET THEM"

\*\*Personal interview with Gloria Krier taken from MABA - FCVN Newsletter.\*\*

The Flace: The Handicap Center

outside of Saigon.

Population: 100

"The Handicap Center outside of Saigon houses and cares for the desperately ill, mentally retarded, victims of Cerebral Palsy, Polio and Tneumonia plus two blind girls. All innocent victims."

Pausing, Mrs. Krier looked at the pictures of the suffering children before continuing on. "They are cared for by one nurse, two nuns, and four child-care attendants.

"The needs are on a one-toone basis. The Handicap Center
is under-staffed by at least ten
child-care attendants. The needs
grow more each day as children
are brought to the Center.

"The stench is unbearable. It is not something that you can forget or will forget. Close to fifty mentally retarded have to be diapered and hand fed. They range from infants to eighteen years old.

"Their needs are so great!

observation center for newcomers, e organization headquarters, and ne for the Clark family.

e once received a letter from a Pediatrician who as doing volunteer work in Viet Nam. She speaks ell to the abilities of our Overseas Staff memers; we'd like to share her letter with you: In a country where cleanliness is next to imposible, it is clean. The new arrivals are frequently " o ill that delay in obtaining medical care may esult in death. I was many times impressed with herie's sound medical judgment. There are babies live today that would be dead if she had not been o alert. However, the thing that impressed me ne most about FCVN was that this was the ONLY gency that I was in that had the atmosphere of a ome, and that seemed to find the time to be ware of and interested in the emotional problems hat each of the children faced. To be sure, one annot fault the other agencies at all, for the hysical problems that beset the children are so verwhelming that they must come first. I thought bout this and came to the conclusion that it was ecause your agency was run by a married couple hat live with their children in the facility. And particular married couple that manages to let heir love flow over on to all of the children in their charge. I only wish the other agencies were as fortunate as yours in their choice of staff."

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

15/1/k

N in the Critical Care Center in Dinh. FCVN's staff took in the ldren most in need; consequently state of health of the children on ival was very poor and many times battle for life was lost. Yet, staff never gave up and relished of saving each and every child they could.

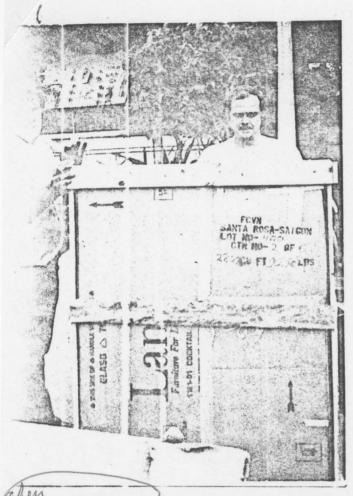
FCVN Critical Care Center in Gia
This facility housed the critiyill infants and toddlers under
care of FCVN. It also served as
observation center for newcomers,
organization headquarters, and
for the Clark family.

Terre Super, Supervisor of the Toddler and Older Child Care facility in Thu Duc. Mrs. Super and her husband, John, were volunteers who worked for FCVN in Viet Nam in 1974 and 1975. Their area of responsibility was the housing and care of the toddlers and older children under our care. Many of these children still remember the warmth and love that they received from Mrs. Super at this halfway house facility. During the Airlift, Mrs. Super once again stepped forth to aid the children and supervised the daily operations of the Continental Care facility where the children stayed until departure to their families.

once received a letter from a Pediatrician who doing volunteer work in Viet Nam. She speaks I to the abilities of our Overseas Staff mems; we'd like to share her letter with you: a country where cleanliness is next to imposte, it is clean. The new arrivals are frequently ill that delay in obtaining medical care may alt in death. I was many times impressed with rie's sound medical judgment. There are babies we today that would be dead if she had not been alert. However, the thing that impressed me most about FCVN was that this was the ONLY may that I was in that had the atmosphere of a

### FOR YOUR SCRAPBOOK - A GLIMPSE OF THE PAST

our hope that in each future newsletter we will be able to look to the past and to some be people and places that played a role in the live of the children our organization was to assist ...



TE AND TOM CLARK, Overseas Program Directors

Tom and Cherie Clark worked as volunteers for FCVN for one year in Viet Nam. They superd the many programs established in Viet Nam by our organization, such as the Foster Orphanage ram, the Adoption Program, the Supply Program, the operation of the Critical Care Center in Dinh, and the Toddler and Older Child Care facility in Thu Duc. They also initiated and cloped the Foster Mother Program which was an outstanding success. This program not only oyed dozens of Vietnamese women who otherwise might not have had an income, but even more retantly it drastically reduced the death rate of the infants under our care. Ms. Clark licensed RN and Mr. Clark was on a leave of absense from his position with I.B.M. which wed him to assist needy children in Viet Nam. The Clarks and their children lived at the ical Care Center in Gia Dinh, very much in the heart of everyday Vietnamese life. Ms. Clark's of Viet Nam is described in her own words in the poem she wrote entitled "There is a Song by Heart", which is reprinted in this newsletter.

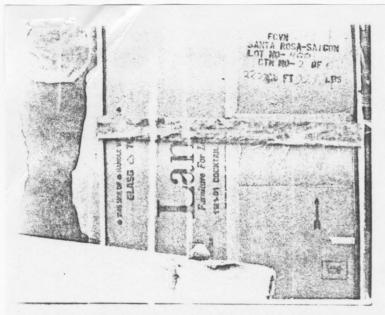


DR. COUNG, the physician employed by FCVN to minister to the needs of the children under the care of our organization. Dr. Coung and the medical staff did an outstanding job, working countless hours in their efforts to save the children.

There is a Song in My Heart

I did not spring from the soil of Viet Nam.

I was not cradled in her womb and she did not



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#### There is a Song in My Heart

I did not spring from the soil of Viet Nam.

I was not cradled in her womb and she did not give birth to me. I was a child of another color and I spoke another language and yet

Viet Nam received me as a mother receives an adopted child from a far off land. I went to

Viet Nam to give and I received. I went to

teach and four thousand years of history and wisdom enlightened me. I went to a country ravaged by war and found peace. I went expecting to find despair and sorrow and I found hope and joy. I crossed an ocean and found a home. There is a song in my heart called Viet Nam but it is wordless and I am incomplete. The words have gone from my song and I am a motherless child

Cherie Velkovich Clark

### FOP

FCVN was established in 1967 to halt the appalling death rate of infants and children in Vietnam by providing food, clothing, and medicine, as well as trained personnel. Our goal is to assist recognized nurseries and orphanages in Vietnam. FCVN established a licensed adoption agency in the State of Colorado in March of 1973, and was registered as a child care organization with the Republic of Vietnam in June of 1973. Since its founding, twenty-six (26) FCVN Chapters have been organized throughout the United States and one in Germany. FCVN has also established, and is supporting, the FCVN Center in Saigon. A Foster Orphanage Plan assists nineteen (19) orphanages and one child care center in Vietnam. We are a non-profit organization of volunteers. All proceeds are used to help the children and all donations are tax-deductible.

-WISCONSIN FOVE NEWSLETTER-

- \$3 feeds a newborn baby for a
   week.
- \$5 buys enough rice to feed a family for five days.
- \$10 pays a cook's wages for one week.
- \$25 buys a tankful of gas for the adoption home's van.
- \$100 provides a meal a day for fifty (50) nursery children for one month.

PLEASE HELP, AS MUCH AS YOU CAN.



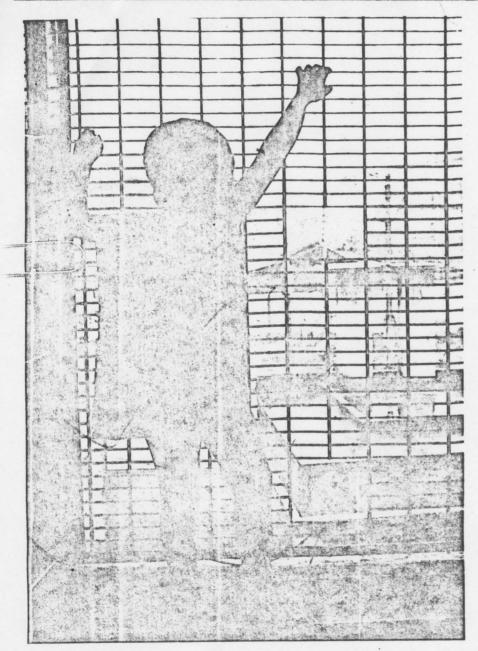
FCVN has a fantastic Foster Orphanage Program some of you are already taking part in. I say it is fantastic because it is the only program of its kind, that I know or, that is getting 100 percent of AII donations directly to the orphanages. Each sponsor pledges \$10 per month or \$120 a year to a particular orphanage to care for its children. In retrun, every 4 to 6 weeks you would receive a letter and/or picture of your orphanage. We feel, that because of the severity of the problem in Vietnam and, also, because of the needs of AII of the children are so great we could not single out only a few individual children to receive aid. We felt that the best way to reach all of the children in Vietnam who need help is to support the orphanages and centers in which they are cared for. We just returned from Vietnam and we saw it working.

-Gloria Johnson --WISCONSIN FCVN -

## f C V new/letter

It is our purpose to promote the well-being of orphaned, abandoned, sick, injured and otherwise needy children throughout the world and to inform the public of the needs of

F.C.V.N. is a licensed child placement agency in the State of Colorado



HIS NAME IS TODAY

We are guilty of many errors and many faults, but our worst crime is abandoning the children, neglecting the fountain of life.

Many of the things we need now can wait. The child cannot. Right now is the time his bones are being formed, his blood is being made and his senses are being developed.

To him we cannot answer "tomorrow" . . .

His name is "Today".

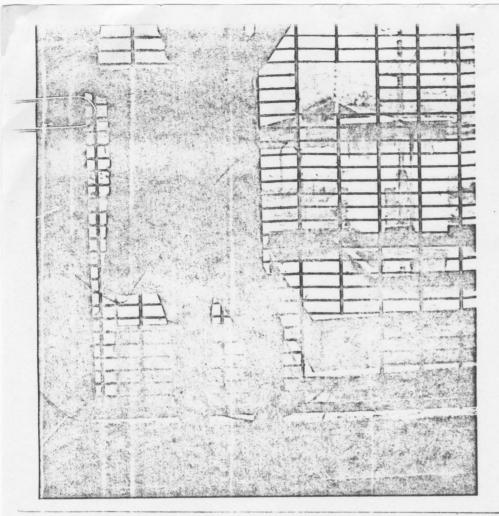
Gabriela Mistral Nobel Prize Poet

photo by James Jones

FOSTER ORPHANAGE PROGRAM

During the course of our work in Viet Nam, FCVN established the Foster Orphanage Program in order to enable people to aid the children in Viet Nam in a personal manner, on a regular basis. This sponsorship program allowed contributors to support the child care facility of their choice and to receive regular communications relative to the children and staff members of this facility. The program in Viet Nam was an outstanding success, a true demonstration of the value of a "people to people" effort. Many sponsors reported feelings of close, involvement with the children and staff members of their chosen facility, plus a broadening of knowledge and understanding of persons in a country other than their native land.

Because of the success of the Program and the wonderful people who supported it, FCVN



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Because of the success of the Program and the wonderful people who supported it, FCVN decided to re-establish the Foster Orphanage Program in countries throughout the world where there are children in need who could benefit from this type of personal caring from concerned people here in the United States. We have listed on the following pages the itial facilities with which we could begin the Program tomorrow; children in facilities that we have first hand knowledge of and who need our help today. We have come to the conclusion that the Program format will have to be changed somewhat in order for the Program to survive and grow, and we are also contemplating some changes on which we would like you to share your thoughts with us. We foresee that the Program monthly donation should remain the same; however we have decided that it would be wise to use it as follows: \$8.00 of the donation to go directly to the child care facility in the foreign country, the remaining \$2.00 to be used to finance a Foster Orphanage Program Newsletter and the cost of its printing and distribution to the Program Sponsors, and the remaining to help finance the efforts of the volunteer staff members to expand the program to other child care facilities throughout the world. We will include in the Sponsors' Newsletter periodic reports on the donations made to the Program and their disbursement.

### TER ORPHANAGE PROGRAM - A LOOK TO THE PAST

ster Marie Christine Le thi Trach t was reported to our staff that ister Marie was killed in April, 975, during a rocket attack)

red Heart Orphanage, DaNang

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VN. Sister Angela wrote to her sponsors:

o you then, dear kind Friend Benefactors,

r deep gratitude and heartfelt thanks for

ur kindness and generosity. How we appreciate

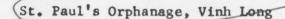
ur assistance. With the high cost of living

re, your generous donations will help us to

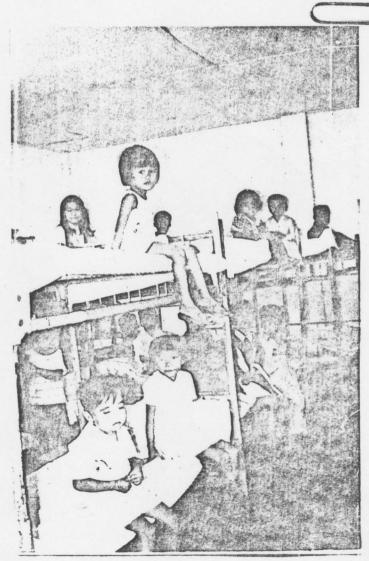
y food for the children ... We can see how the

od Lord takes care of His little ones. Thanks

to Him and to you, tco."



Sister Marie Christine Le thi Trach was the directress of St. Paul's Orphanage in Vinh Long. This orphanage had a special place in the hearts of FCVN's volunteer staff members in Viet Nam; though very poor, they always strove to do their best for the children in their care. At times they knew they should turn children away, but could never bring themselves to do so. St. Paul's was assisted by FOP with the FCVN chapter in Sonoma acting as the coordinating chapter. Sister Marie wrote that she had a very special feeling about the sponsors who helped her to help her children. She stated she felt "no so alone" knowing the sponsors were there.



Sister Marie Christine Le thi Trach (it was reported to our staff that Sister Marie was killed in April, 1975, during a rocket attack)

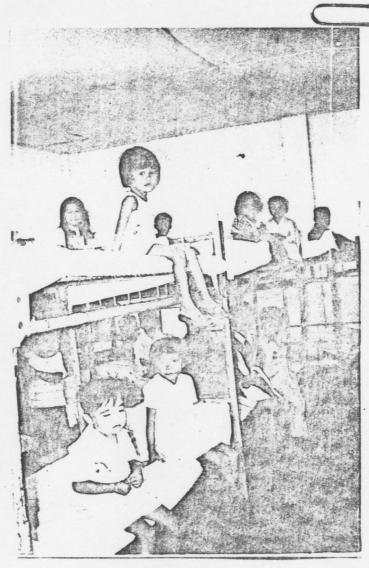
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Children at Tan Binh Orphanage, Cam Ranh

Sister Mary Lieu, the directress of
Tan Binh Orphanage, had over 170 children
in her care. The children were housed
in a brick building with 40 children
per sleeping area. Sister Mary Lieu
wrote to her sponsors: 'We are movingly
happy when we read your letter telling us
that you are willing to help our children.
We are sure that the way you are doing
will get deserving success in favor of
our dear orphans.''
Nebraska FCVN was the coordinator
for Tan Binh.

#### RPHANAGE PROGRAM and a LOOK TO THE FUTURE

Cherie Clark, Overseas Program Director, sets direction of re-establishment of sistance programs - - -

ased upon the research of Ms. Clark, Overseas Program Director, Mr. Ross Meador, exciate Overseas Program Director, and Janet Tonnemacher, a wonderful person who has ently joined our volunteer staff, FCVN has decided to attempt to re-establish the oster Orphanage Program in Korea and India, with plans that the program will be expanded other areas of the world as this becomes feasible. The re-establishment of FOP is a tarting point; once this program is established and functioning, FCVN will also explore he possibility of re-establishing others of our assistance programs and the development f new programs as the need becomes apparent and the possibility of our assisting in that eed becomes practical. Some of the previous programs that we would very much like to cactivate include the gathering and sending of supplies of food, clothing, medicine and edical equipment (we remember so well the wonderful efforts of the people who gathered be funds to buy an incubator for Providence Orphanage in Can Tho, and the reality of that ocubator in the orphanage nursery!). Support of vocational training programs being run real sadvantaged youth in foreign countries and aid to medical clinics abroad by means of unds for salaries for medical personnel are also programs on our minds. This, hopefully, s the beginning of a dream: the dream to use the knowledge and skills that we as an rganization gained, and the facilitating of your willingness to help needy children broughout the world and to gain first-hand knowledge of these children, the people dedicated o assisting them, and their needs.

o meet those who are dedicating their lives to the nurturing of these children. Ms. Clark pent a great length of time listening to those who are working with children in each of hese countries. She has developed many a warm and lasting relationship with these adviduals and is now concentrating on bringing their stories, dedication, frustrations, and the needs of their children to your attention. Ms. Clark believes that once you become ersonally acquainted with these staff members of child care facilities and the children who ive within their walls, that you will share our desire to become a small but important part of their humanitarian efforts. The children are waiting; we ask that you join us in an affort to reach every child that we possibly can. Won't you become a Foster Orphanage Program ponsor, or send a donation in order that our staff might pursue their efforts to develop of and other child assistance programs throughout the world?

REMEMBER THE CHILDREN AND THEY WILL NEVER FORGET YOU.

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The clark traveled to India, Colombia, and Thailand, to assess the needs of children and meet those who are dedicating their lives to the nurturing of these children. Ms. Clark spent a great length of time listening to those who are working with children in each of these countries. She has developed many a warm and lasting relationship with these individuals and is now concentrating on bringing their stories, dedication, frustrations, and the needs of their children to your attention. Ms. Clark believes that once you become personally acquainted with these staff members of child care facilities and the children who live within their walls, that you will share our desire to become a small but important part of their humanitarian efforts. The children are waiting; we ask that you join us in an effort to reach every child that we possibly can. Won't you become a Foster Orphanage Program Sponsor, or send a donation in order that our staff might pursue their efforts to develop TOP and other child assistance programs throughout the world?

REMEMBER THE CHILDREN AND THEY WILL NEVER FORGET YOU. "IT IS WELL TO GIVE WHEN ASKED, IT IS BETTER TO GIVE THROUGH UNDERSTANDING

Khalil Gibran

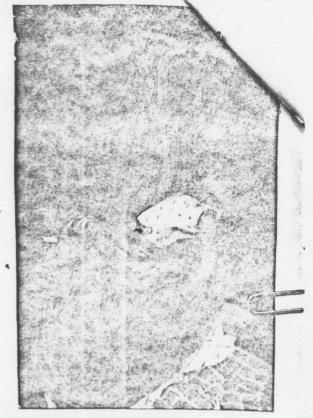
# INDIA

"An infant deprived of nutrition or stimulation will never develop to full mental capacity.

There's no second chance.

Today 70% of the world's population risks permanent damage."

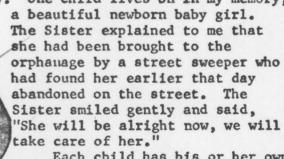
Roger Lewis
Psychology Today



MOTHER TERESA'S HOME IN DELHI

As the taxi drove up the small lane to Mother Teresa's home in Old Delhi I could hear children laughing and playing in the small playground next to the orphanage. They were snacking on rolls which had been provided free to the orphanage by an airline. A new visitor is always welcome, particularly if the visitor comes with a camera. The children posed and came to curiously examine us and our cameras. The Sisters came to welcome us and I renewed a friend-ship with the orphanage Director, Sister Lourdes.

As we entered the small room which housed the children, I went immediately to the area where the newborn babies were: in every orphanage throughout the world one finds the tiny babies who are struggling for survival. The young Sister showed me the children and told a story about each baby. One child lives on in my memory,



Each child has his or her own story: some are illegitimate, some are abandoned because a family cannot put food into the mouth of yet another hungry child, some are handicapped; but here in Mother's home each child is given a chance for life and an abundance of love. As I stared down at the babies, I was reminded of one of India's greatest poets, Rabindranath Tagore, saying that "Each child comes with the message that God has not yet tired of man."

In the December issue of Time
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a beautiful newborn baby girl.
The Sister explained to me that she had been brought to the orphanage by a street sweeper who had found her earlier that day abandoned on the street. The Sister smiled gently and said, "She will be alright now, we will take care of her."

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In the December issue of Time Magazine, Mother Teresa was heralded as a Saint living among men. I have had the privilege of spending two days with Mother Teresa during my trips to India and spending hours touring Mother's homes. I have listened to her speak in the gentlest of voices about the children and their right to survive. Mother Teresa and her sisters do not turn children away. They need help to continue to help the children of India and throughout the world.

- Cherie Clark

photos by Cherie Clark and James Jones

ss and some Korean children)

Ross Meador, whom many of you will remember rved on our American staff in Viet Nam for over arteen months, has returned to volunteer his vices in assisting our organization in re-estaishing our overseas programs. We are thrilled to ve Ross once again as a part of our overseas staff. wast experiences and knowledge of child welfare stitutions and programs is a much valued asset to organization. Ross has been joined by a voluner, Janet Tonnemacher, a student from California, see photographic experience and talents are equal Ross's, as you will see from some of the photophs in this newsletter. We would like to share the you some of the information that Ross and Janet egathered since their arrival in Seoul.

After only two months in Korea, on a ctically non-existent budget (Janet donated the cy for her own ticket and Ross and Janet both e been using personal funds for expenses), and Janet have covered a lot of territory. oughout the country they ve introduced themselves explained their purpose for being there, and they received a warm reception from the government he Republic of Korea, from the Korean social ices, the U.S. government representatives, as as from other volunteer groups active there, from orphanages and other institutions in the try. But, as Ross recently wrote, 'Why not? e young, enthusiastic, willing to listen to the s of others more experienced than we as we share own well-founded ideas with others ... (We've) essed willingness and desire to design FCVN's rams to meet and fill Korea's clear cut needs, both diate and future." The combination of our experience he past and our flexibility for the present and re make the prospects for a new FOP program in a very optimistic. The possibilities are very uraging.

There is tremendous promise for the future of Republic of Korea. The needs are now. Although is on the threshold of a burgeoning economy, are areas in which exigencies are evident. They will continue to do so if the rate of abandon-remains the same. Korea's government is initiating mans to help curb this rate of abandonment, through ional training to insure good jobs and day care are so that a family might stay together, and to the lence of orphanages. But for now, there are many tren in need of someons to care about them.

janet Tonnemacher.







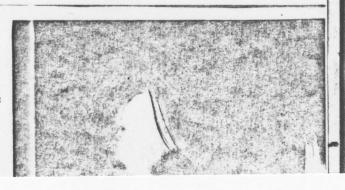


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One of the people that Ross and Janet met in heir travels is Mr. Youn Taek Tahk, President of he Social Welfare Society (SWS) of Korea.

Tahk has been most responsive to FCVN's explortions in Korea and has been instrumental in their earning about Korea's programs. Mr. Tahk's exensive knowledge of Korea's social needs has been nvaluable to Ross and Janet in their research for he part FCVN can play in furnishing some of them.

Tahks' encouragement has been boundless, and e look forward to working with him and his agency.

Mr. Tahk enthusiastically welcomes our plans or a Foster Orphanage Program in Korea, and when e visited Cheryl Markson and Cherie Clark here n Denver last month, he had many ideas for its mplementation.

It is not certain how many orphans there are n Korea, but well over 400 homes for the abanoned children have registered with the Korean overnment in hopes of qualifying for the small flowance provided for the children no one else an afford to care for. But even some of this does been cut off now, and many homes are left thout hunds. FCVN's Foster Orphanage Program can rovide a genuine need for some of these homes. A cw that Ross and Janet have visited are described alow.



Amsa-Dong Abandoned Babies Home is directed by Mr. Tahk himself. He took Ross and Janet see it, and later, Ross wrote:

"As we toured Ansa-Dong, I saw that it was a lucky child who found his way to the care for. Tahk... Entering the gate one sees the layout as being that of several small three-room cottages, opening out onto a tree-shaded playground. Everything is immaculately clean and le staff (about one for every 6 to 8 children) clearly have a sincere love for the children... new cottage is being built to make room for the seemingly endless stream of children Mr. Tahk constantly asked to care for."

Full-time medical care is almost unheard of in Korean orphanages, but Amsa-Dong has just exently begun to receive the medical services of a young French doctor. Having a doctor makes at the difference in the children's well-being, most of whom arrive at Amsa-Dong in very por condition. A clinic is being established to care for the debilitated, premature newborn afants and the older children who arrive at Amsa-Dong, but the clinic needs help to really come established.

And with the government's cutback of funds for such homes, it is even harder for Mr. Tahk care for the children of Amsa-Dong. FCVN's Foster Orphanage Program could help to keep. Tahk's excellent home and clinic operating and help to make the needed improvements.

ter visiting another orphanage, Ross wrote:

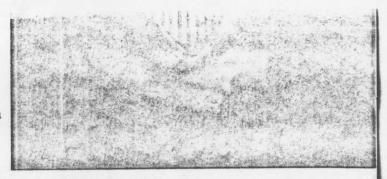
"Once in a great while a children home will defy all the odds and come out looking more ke a summer camp than a dungeon. Such a place is Han Kuk Orphanage. Located about 40 miles om Seoul, it is neetled in a deep valley beside a small lake ... The location is so beautiful at for extra income, instead of maintaining a small farm or livestock like most institutions, in Kuk caters to the tourist trade, offering refreshments to those who come out on the weekeds to enjoy the scenic beauty.

"The facilities are excellent, but the real sparkle of the Han Kuk Orphanage is in the eyes the children. Healthy and alert, there is no sign of the listlessness and lack of stimula-



tion so common in orphans. They attend school every day; their lives are strong and healthy.

"The history of Han Kuk goes back to before the Korean War, to doned children have registered with the Korean government in hopes of qualifying for the small allowance provided for the children no one else an afford to care for. But even some of this aid has been cut off now, and many homes are left without junds. FCVN's Foster Orphanage Program can provide a genuine need for some of these homes. A few that Ross and Janet have visited are described below.



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And with the government's cutback of funds for such homes, it is even harder for Mr. Tahk's care for the children of Amsa-Dong. FCVN's Foster Orphanage Program could help to keep r. Tahk's excellent home and clinic operating and help to make the needed improvements.

fter visiting another orphanage, Ross wrote:

"Once in a great while a children' home will defy all the odds and come out looking more ike a summer camp than a dungeon. Such a place is Han Kuk Orphanage. Located about 40 miles from Seoul, it is neetled in a deep valley beside a small lake ... The location is so beautiful at for extra income, instead of maintaining a small farm or livestock like most institutions, an Kuk caters to the tourist trade; offering refreshments to those who come out on the weekeds to enjoy the scenic beauty.

"The facilities are excellent, but the real sparkle of the Han Kuk Orphanage is in the eyes the children. Healthy and alert, there is no sign of the listlessness and lack of stimula-



tion so common in orphans. They attend school every day; their lives are strong and healthy.

"The history of Han Kuk goes back to before the Korean War, to the days when Korea was unified. Mrs. Hwang, a wealthy philanthropist, had been involved in charity work for some time. When it became clear to her what changes were go to come with the new communist governing the north, she chose to move south along with thousands of others. With her she brought the orphans she had been caring for."

During and after the war, Mrs.
Hwang and her orphans moved several
times in and out of Seoul and its
environs, going wherever it was safe
at the time. Then after the war
Mrs. Hwang decided that downtown
Seoul was not the place for an orphans
home, so they finally settled in a
house that had long been owned by her

1

Koreand in american Children to Country lines

3. C.V.N.\*

600 GILPIN STREET DENVER, COLORADO 80218

Dear friends of Amerasians,

Because of your interest in the half-American children left behind in Korea, Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, I wanted to write this letter and inform you of the latest devlopments regarding H. R. 808, the "Amerasian" Bill.

Progress has been made in Washinton -- but is very slow in coming. Congresspeople are aware of the plight of the children and mothers who are abandoned by their American fathers and friends and who are then forced to live with constant scorn, ridicule and isolation because of their mixed heritage and alliance with foreign men. The story is an old one, familiar to every nation which has seen the ravages of war and endured the occupation of foreign troops but the story takes on a special perspective when it deals with Asian-American children and families living in a homogeneous, Confucian society which has stressed racial purity for 2,000 years.

The children are <u>not</u> recognized by the United States government as children of U. S. citizens; therefore, they cannot come to their fathers' land except for adoption (for those under the age of fourteen) or a temporary student visa.

There are three ways which you can be of help:

- 1. Please write to your Congresspeople: Make them aware of H. R. 808 and your support of the bill. Encourage them to sponsor the bill: (Rep. Pat Schroeder is a sponsor in the House but we have no Colorado sponsor in the Senate.)
- 2. Fr. Alfred Keane, (a Maryknoll priest who has worked with the Amerasians for ten years) has personally lobbied in Washington, B.C. for several years for the benefit of the Korean Amerasians. Last month his phone bill was \$2,400 and his postage was \$150.00 per week. Would you consider sending \$5.00 per month to support him with his efforts? Your contribution made payable to FCVN is tax-deductible.
- 3. Would you or a friend consider sponsoring a student, age fourteen or older, in the United States for educational purposes? You would be required to get visa approval, have medical insurance which would cover the student while living in your home, and you would be responsible for airfare, room, board, and school expenses. The several students awaiting the opportunity to attend an American high school or college. (Remember: These people consider themselves Americans because of paternal lineage.) The students are highly motivated and would be hand-picked by Fr. Keane.

Thank you for your attention thus far. May I encourage you again to write your Congresspeople and consider a donation on a monthly basis for the efforts of Father Keane and his efforts on the Amerasian bill.

a non-profit, non-affiliated assistance corporation and licensed child placement agency

Please address inquiries or send donations to:

FCVN 600 Gilpin St. Denver, CO 80218

ATTN: Cathy Lewien

I have information concerning H. R. 808 and sponsoring an Amerasian student and would be happy to send them to you upon request.

Sincerely,

Cathy Lewien

Community Resource Director

#### COLORADO SENATORS

William L. Armstrong
1321 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

AND

1045 Lincolm Denver, CO 80203

Gary Hart
221 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

AND

1748 High St. Denver, 80218

#### COLORADO REPRESENTATIVES

Pat Schroeder
2410 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515
AND
1767 High Street
Denver, 80218

Tim Wirth
2454 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D. C. 20515
AND
8648 W. Colfax
Lakewood, CO 80215

Ray Kogovsek (Dist. 3.)
430 Cannon HOB
Washington, D. C. 20510

Hank Brown (Dist. 4)

1319 Longworth HOB

Washington, D. C. 20515

Ken Kramer 1724 Longworth HOB Washington, D. C. 20515 The children of American servicemen and Korean mothers are often labeled *tiki* (half-breed) or *ayeenoko* (person in-between who belongs to no one). Left in South Korea by their fathers, they are in a cultural limbo: Their mothers' people do not want them and their fathers' people will not have them. An American priest leads the struggle to bring them home to the U.S. By Theresa Rebeck

# Children of Loneliness: The Korean Amerasians

"In Korea, on Christmas Eve 1970, at 10:30 at night, 30 of these kids walked through the gates of my parish and said, 'Help!' How can you say No?"

Father Alfred Keane, a Maryknoll missionary from Boston, Massachusetts, begins to tell his story—and the story of the Korean Amerasian children—simply, but he is no simple man, and it is no simple story. He tells this story on the run, as he scrambles through the Cincinnati airport, trying to find luggage, arrange for a flight to Boston, wolf down a hasty lunch. Much of his life is spent in airports these days. He sprints from city to city, giving newspaper interviews, appearing on radio and TV talk shows, speaking to small groups of people who gather to hear his story. He lives like this because of this story, and because of those children.

The story is an old one, familiar to every nation which has seen the ravages of war on its own soil and endured the occupation of foreign troops. It is the story of the foreign soldier, far from his home and family, who forms an "alliance" with one of the local women to fill in the hours of his free time, hours made long with loneliness and tedium. They set up house; perhaps they marry. But regardless of whether or not a marriage ceremony is part of the story, the ending is rarely a happy one: The soldier is called home. He leaves, telling his "wife" he will send for her soon. She never hears from him again—and neither do his children.

There is a twist to Father Keane's version of this well-known story. His version begins in South Korea, where he has spent the past 22 years of his life. The foreign soldiers who occupy this land are not conquering invaders, but American troops. And the deserted children are those 30 who appeared at his parish gates 10 years ago, plus about 8,000 others. They are the Korean Amerasian children, children with American features and Oriental eyes, the fruit of the union of the East and the West.

#### The Korean Amerasians

These children, the children of American servicemen and Korean wives or mistresses, are caught in a cultural limbo because of their mixed heritage. They are not recognized by the United States government as children of U.S. citizens, so they can come to their

fathers' land rarely, only with an adoption visa or temporary student visa. Although they live in Korea and have been granted Korean citizenship by the government, they are rejected by Korean society: They are tormented by their peers when they are young, denied admission to the better colleges when older, and unable to make a respectable marriage or get a decent job. Out of desperation, many finally turn to crime and prostitution. All of this stems from the fact of their missing father and mixed race.

"Korea is an ancient land," Father Keane says. "It's 5,000 years old, and during the history of Korea, that country has been conquered and reconquered. And the goal of all those conquering nations was to subjugate the Korean people and eventually absorb them into their own population.

"But the Korean people have resisted that, and even though they look at their history and see that they've been under somebody else's foot for a good part of it, they know that they have been successful in maintaining their unity and identity as a pure race of people, pure Korean people. They're very proud of that, and with good historical reasons. But this boast itself creates a problem for the Amerasians because here is a child who is obviously not of that pure Korean race, and not the child of an enemy, but the child of an ally. The Koreans don't know how to cope with this situation."

The problem of their mixed heritage is compounded by the fact that these children have been deserted by their fathers. Father Keane explains that Confucianism is the predominant philosophical influence on the people of Korea, and "the whole idea behind this teaching is that if a person carries out his duties and fulfills all his responsibilities, and is true to his basic loyalties, then everyone is taken care of and no one is a burden to anybody else. Duty of young to old, ruler to subject, teacher to pupil, husband to wife, son-in-law to mother-in-law. You wouldn't believe how rigidly spelled out this is.

"Listed among the duties is the duty of the father alone to give the child his name, his roots, his identity, all of which is recorded on a document called the family record. When you want to know who a Korean person is, you want to know his or her clan, where that person came from. All these things added up together constitute who this person is. And this is determined on the father's side.

"In the eyes of the Oriental, the children belong to the

male. It's his responsibility to care for them." The Amerasian children have no father to take responsibility for them, no one to give them an identity. So in the eyes of Korean society they are nonpersons. "The Koreans consider a father who would abandon a child and not give him an identity-they would say he is a barbarian, Keane adds. "And who's to say they are wrong?

"The child goes to school, and is called a tiki," he says. "That means 'half-breed.' Or they call the child the ayeenoko, a Japanese word that means 'love child,' but it also has another meaning: 'Person in-between that belongs to no one.' Which means you're not one of us, and they also say you're not one of them, so you're this in-between, you are related to no one. And I use the word 'related' deliberately, because to whom I am related determines my value. To say that to an Oriental-and these kids have been raised there, they've got the Oriental thought patterns like all the others—that hurts more. Because to be related is so, so important."

#### Administering Band-Aids-and More

Up until that night in 1970, Father Keane had been unaware of these children and their situation. From August of 1958-shortly after his ordination as a Maryknoll priest-until 1970, he worked in the heart of the most secluded province in Korea, a place "so far deep in the hills that even the Communists didn't get there, though they occupied the surrounding area for six months." But after he moved to a more accessible parish, only two months passed before the Korean Amerasian children began showing up on his doorstep, coming with the hope that someone from the church might help them.

In the first group that approached him, the ages of the children ranged from five to 17 years old. Since that night, he has met and taken hundreds of these children and teenagers under his wing. At first, he put up everyone in his rectory, but that soon became too crowded. "My God, you wouldn't believe how small that place was," he remembers. "At night, we would all lie down, and if you had to go to the bathroom you were in trouble because there

was just no room to get there.'

Eventually Father Keane gave up the rectory and his other duties-at the time he was regional coordinator for the Maryknoll Fathers, director of their overseas training program and director of their language school-to move to a larger orphanage in the village of Inchon. There, in St. Vincent's Orphanage for Amerasians, he can accommodate 60 to 70 children, plus perhaps 15 to 20 teenagers. "When it gets over 100 I get a little nervous," he admits. "Strained."

Many of these children come to him on their own, as the first group did; some are brought by mothers or grandmothers who can no longer care for them; and some Father Keane has to search out of the villages which hide them. In the past few years, he has placed between 700 and 800 of these children in American homes—and some Euro-

pean homes—through adoption.

But seeing that he gets some of "his" kids adopted is not enough for Father Alfred Keane. "That's a Band-Aid," he asserts. "I want to give these kids what is rightfully theirs, so that whether I'm living or dead they can all come to their fathers' country." For the past several years, he has lobbied vigorously for passage of a congressional bill which will acknowledge the Amerasians as children of American citizens.

This bill, HR-808, was introduced to the House by Congressman Stewart McKinney of Connecticut. It provides for American-fathered children in Korea, Vietnam, Laos and Thailand to qualify under the first or fourth preference categories of the U.S. Immigration Act in order to obtain a permanent immigration visa to the United States. These categories are for unmarried and married sons and daughters of U.S. citizens. The bill also requires that these immigrants have a guarantee of five years of financial sup-

port from a U.S. sponsor.

Even though as many as 400,000 people—the highest estimate of the number of Amerasians in Asia today-will be affected by this bill, its passage will not swell the numbers of immigrants the United States presently accepts from these countries. The bill simply gives the Amerasians preference; it does not allow for an increased number of immigrants each year. It also will not cost the taxpayers a dime. It will only acknowledge the truth, says Father Keane—that these children have American fathers and the right to live in America

From Father Keane's point of view, the bill is essential. He points out that as serious as the situation is in Korea, it is even worse—much worse—in Vietnam. There, perhaps as many as 200,000 Amerasians live in the streets and scavenge to find whatever they can to survive. Because of their American lineage, the Vietnamese government will not issue them ration cards, which every Vietnamese needs to purchase food. These children are starving

Very few of America's politicians take the plight of the Amerasians as seriously as Father Keane, however, and he says he's been told time and again that the American people "don't care" about the Amerasians, so such a bill is

unnecessary. Father Keane doesn't believe that

People are good," he says. "I've seen it all over. I do believe the American people will care if they know. And I hope they will care enough to write to their representatives in Congress and encourage the passage of this bill. Because they, the American people, are going to decide whether these children will live a life of happiness, a meaningful life, or if they are going to be condemned.

He pulls out stacks of vivid photographs taken at his orphanage and spreads them across the table. Even the most disinterested observer would admit that the Amerasians are strikingly handsome children. "And smart, too," the priest nods, pride creeping into his voice. "Boy, they're smart. We're a bunch of idiots to turn our backs on

these kids-idiots

These are the reasons Father Keane shuttles relentlessly back and forth between his home in Korea and his campaign in the States, hoping that someone will listen and help. He is exhausted, he says, and his campaign is currently running approximately \$50,000 in the red, but he is not worried: "Money-what's money?" he asks. "It'll come from somewhere.

#### 'I Command You to Free Them'

Father Keane's work with the Amerasians went into full swing in April of 1976, after he had taken care of the children in his parish and could begin to scour the small towns around the American military bases, searching for others who might be in trouble. He found children who were being harassed and ridiculed, bought and sold, held for ransom, living with prostitutes.

Well, I ended up at Camp Casev," he remembers. "I had four little children with me, the first four that I found in that period, and I was mad because I saw what was happening, and I was crying because children suffering in this way just disturbs me so much, and all I could hear were those beautiful words of the Lord to the prophet Moses: 'I have heard the cry from my children in their sorrow and affliction, and I command you to go free them. So I said, 'Lord, I will.' Since then, I've been working full

Keane first tried going to the local military for help with

caring for the Amerasian children. They told him the Amerasians were not the responsibility of the United States government. The Eighth Army headquarters and the United States embassy told him the same thing. The priest had no money, no connections, very few friends back in the States—he'd been in Korea for 18 years at the time—and he was living in the local red-light district for lack of anyplace else to stay. "So," he says, "I prayed to the Lord."

His answer came in the form of a little boy named Frankie Joseph. The child's father had sent him and his mother to the States on a fiancee visa, then deserted them and had them sent back to Korea alone. The child's mother had a mental and emotional collapse. Her mother—the child's maternal grandmother—brought Frankie Joseph to Father Keane to see if he could find a home for the boy.

Frankie Joseph was with Father Keane one day when he went to visit the then-commanding general of the second

division. The general fell in love with the little boy & adopted him, says the priest. He was an answer to a prayer, & not the general's prayer, but mine.

"I said to him, That boy came here with a mission,

"I said to him, 'That boy came here with a mission, same as Joseph in the Old Testament, the mission of saving his people, the Amerasian children. So I hope you hear the Lord asking you and reaching out to you to do something to help these children.' And this general said Yes."

The general proceeded to organize the Amerasian Association among the military personnel. "When you've got a two-star general saying, 'Hey, let's volunteer our free time,' all these guys just stumble all over one another trying to help," the priest nods. Later on, this general introduced Father Keane to other generals and the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, who was also very supportive.

The amount of help the top military brass can offer is limited, however. They can keep their officers in line, with threats of delayed promotions for those who take advantage of the village women, but their influence over the private lives of the enlisted men is minimal.

"They all get briefed now, you know. They weren't getting briefed before." Father Keane shakes his head. "But it's kind of the macho thing to do. You get your yabo—that's what they call the girls—you get your yabo and you settle in for a year or two or three and play house.

Then one day you get up and walk away."

Korean laws state that it is a criminal and civil offense to get a Korean woman pregnant under promise of marriage. American servicemen, however, are rarely prosecuted on this charge because of an agreement between the United States government and the Korean government which states that jurisdiction on charges of a criminal nature passes to American authority within 15 days after the charges are introduced. Because fathering an illegitimate child is not a criminal offense under American law, the charges are dropped once jurisdiction changes hands.

Even if the father is tried in civil court and ordered to make financial recompense to the mother, he can refuse under the protection of an agreement which stipulates that charges arising from civil cases cannot be used as a pretext to delay American military personnel from proceeding to their next assignment. So once a serviceman is transferred to another base or back to the U.S., he is free to go, regardless of what he owes the children and their mother. In the States he is protected by the Privacy Act, so the woman cannot contact him unless he wants to be contacted.

#### To Doubt a Man's Word

"Now, why in God's name do these women have these kids?" Father Keane asks. "That's what most people want to know. And why are they so naive in waiting for these guys to come back year after year?

"Well, first of all, you have to understand that this woman has come and lived with this man, and he's promised marriage, sometimes even gone through with the Korean ceremony, and she thinks she's been his wife. These children are not born of short-term, Saturday-night-on-the-town relationships—these men come to Korea and move in for a year or two.

"So this guy has his Korean wife, and of course he wants his Korean family, so he asks her to have a child. And she does, because she wants to provide a child for her man. They are all planned births. This is important to understand. They all know about birth control; no Korean woman is going to bring a child into the world that she

knows the father doesn't want."

Then the father leaves, promising to return or send for her and the children. The mother waits. "She waits, and why?" the priest asks. "We say it's naivete, but it's not, it's because—" Father Keane picks up a pen and scribbles a quick figure on an envelope he's found in his jacket pocket. "This is the Chinese character that means man," he says. He writes down another figure. "This is the character that means word." He draws still a third figure, one which combines the first two. "You take the character for man, and the character for word, and you get—trust," he nods. "A man and his word are one. When you have a man and his word together, you have trust. To doubt the man's word is to doubt the man himself. And that is a number one grave sin in Oriental society."

It is not until she has waited several years—sometimes five or six or more—that the woman begins to doubt and, perhaps, panic. That is when she brings her children to

Father Keane's orphanage.

"It's very sad, you know," the priest admits. "There are a lot of tears to this work. Most of these women bring their children to me to find them homes because they love them." When a woman brings him her children, he explains, she does so only because she realizes she can no longer care for them or that they would be better off in America, if they can get there.

#### Going to the Promised Land

**B**y the time they come to the orphanage, many of the children are too old to obtain an adoption visa—they are issued only to children who are under 14. Others are still eligible for the visa, but at an age—11, 12 or 13—which fewer families consider "adoptable." "Everybody wants to adopt a little girl under the age of four, it seems to me," says Father Keane. "I got 2,000 letters in the past two months, and 90 percent of them want little girls, blond, blue eyes, good health, no emotional problems and above-average intelligence. You'd think I had a supermarket with little Shirley Temple dolls in it."

In spite of his inability to fill such "orders," Father Keane has been successful in placing his children in American homes. Each year, between 170 and 200 Amerasian children are adopted and sent to the United States with the help of such organizations as Americans for International Aid, a group of airline stewardesses who serve as escorts and bring the children from Korea to the States cheaply and safely. The priest can usually find a home for a child in a month, and it takes three or four more to complete the paperwork and send the child to his or her new family.

Getting teenagers—those 14 or older—to the U.S. has been a much more serious problem. Up until this year, even temporary student visas were denied them as a matter of course because the U.S. immigration officials knew these youngsters probably would end up staying on in America any way they could rather than return to Korea.

The people in these embassies know the problems

these kids face and that once they get out of there, they probably aren't going back," Father Keane explains. "And if they're not convinced that the kid's going to return to the country of origin, they will not issue a student visa. So for a number of years I've been screaming at them, embarrassing them wherever I went. Now the kids get visas."

Father Keane sees no solution to this problem other than bringing the Amerasians to the land of their fathers. He points out that in the days of the colonial powers the illegimate children of French, Belgian, Dutch or English settlers and native women were always given the chance to choose citizenship in the land of their fathers if they wanted it.

"We are the only great country that has turned its back on its own children," he insists. "And you know, we talk loud about human rights violations, especially when they occur in places where we can't do anything about them, but here, obviously, is a human rights violation. These children have been denied their American heritage and the government won't even recognize that they have a claim to it."

He shakes his head with anger. "I think it's downright immoral. Here's the government saying, 'We're not responsible for this; this is the result of the private actions of American citizens,' but the individual Americans wouldn't be in Korea or Vietnam or wherever, doing this, unless America had sent them, unless Congress had sent them."

Father Keane places little of the blame for the suffering of the Korean Amerasians on the shoulders of the Korean people or the Korean government. "I love the Korean people," he says. "I understand them; I don't condemn them. They help me. One of the virtues of the Orientals is compassion for their fellow man. But while they feel compassion, they're not ready to hire them, marry them, and they don't like their children going to school with them."

As far as the government goes, the Amerasians are well treated, the priest continues. They are given financial aid so they can complete their schooling and they are exempted from military service.

"But they are not going to be accepted," he reiterates. "It's just a matter of the Koreans asking the simple question: What are they doing here? They don't belong here. Why don't they go to their fathers' people?"

The priest is determined that they will go to their fathers' people. "The children of God in the Bible spent 40 years in the desert before they were able to go to their fathers' country," he recalls. "Now, it's 36 years since these children first appeared on the scene, since we first went to Asia in large numbers, and we stand now before what I call the walls of Jericho, which is the United States immigration policy. And we're going to blow those walls down, because these are the children of the Promise, and I know the Lord himself wants these children freed. I've been a Maryknoller for over 30 years, and I have never felt his power or his presence so much as I have when I walk through villages where these children are found."

#### To Live in Loneliness

Father Keane is doing everything he can to insure the passage of Bill HR-808, and if that fails, he's got other—more colorful—plans to put into effect. Nothing, he says, will deter him.

"I love these kids," he admits. "And they've suffered so much. Look at what this one kid wrote—" He shuffles some papers and finds a letter written by a 27-year-old Korean Amerasian. The line he points to reads: "I only desire to walk tall and straight like any other man." Father Keane folds the letter again. "Dignity. That's all they want. Everyone deserves that."

He leans back a little and stares at the table top. "But what do these kids have?" he asks. "Well, it's been put this way: The loneliness in the father's heart, the loneliness that created them, that's all that's left them. This loneliness. It's a terrible way to live, in loneliness and isolation, feeling you're an oddball. . . . I call this the American tragedy."

Please write your Congressional representatives and urge them to support Bill HR-808 or write your Senator and urge the introduction of a similar bill in the Senate.

Donations and requests for further information concerning the Korean Amèrasians should be addressed to:

F. C. D. M.

600 GILPIN STREET DENVER COLORADO 80218



Maryknoll missionary Father Alfred Keane (above) has cared for hundreds of children at St. Vincent's Orphanage for Amerasians in Inchon, South Korea. The children call him Abba (Daddy)—most of them cannot remember their real fathers. The priest enjoys the honor. "I love children," he says. "Two adults will bother me; 100 kids won't."



Dear Friend of H.R.808,

My name is Debbie. My mother is a Korean and my father is an American. I don't know my father. He was an American soldier. He promised to marry my mother but he left Korea without saying goodbye and without ever seeing me.

Being mixed blood really hurt me bad. When I was in Korea the Koreans did not treat me like a human. I had a hard time when I lived with a Korean family where my mother left me.

The Korean family made me a housemaid when I was only 11 years old. I just went to school a little bit. School was bad because everybody called me all kinds of names. It was hard to make friends. When I walked by myself Korean boys came to me and beat me until I could not move.

When someone of mixed blood like me grows up, he cannot find a job. If you get a job, it will be as a housegirl or boy, all kinds of dirty work. When Korean people get into a fight, the person who started the fight will go to jail. But if AmerAsians get into a fight with a Korean, the police will always send the AmerAsian to jail. It doesn't matter who started the fight. I was told by the police that it didn't matter how much I got beat up, my father was an American, so I was not protected by Korean law.

But I was a lucky person. Someone very special found me. His name is Father Keane. He has a home in Morea for Amer-Asian children. He found a family to take me to the U.S.A.

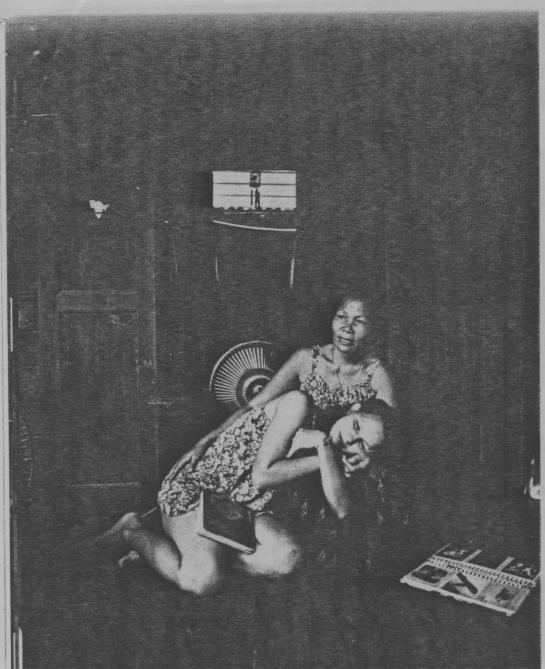
When I came to the U.S., everything was different. People are so nice and they don't treat me like the Morean people did. And they are very friendly. I was so happy because I never had a friend that really cared about me.

But I am not really happy because in Morea there are still a lot of people like me who really want to come to the U.S. and have a better life. If the House Bill 808 passes, it will be a big help to all of us.

Thank you for helping to get H.R.808 passed.

Sincerely,

Debbie





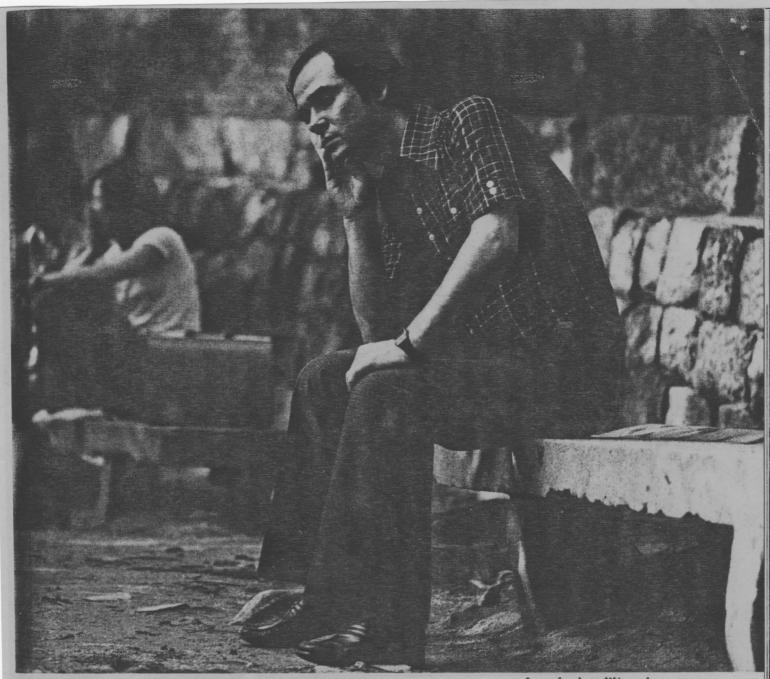
#### Article by David DeVoss

very working day just before sunrise, Lee Sung-gu leaves his shack in a working-class section of Seoul, South Korea, and trudges downhill to his job, passing huts edged with barbed wire, clay pots full of the fermenting cabbage mixture called kimchi, and scabrous curs still whimpering at the moon. He meets neighbors, also on their way down the hill, but none of them acknowledge his presence. Neither is he greeted by any of his fellow commuters at the bus stop.

Lee waits for his bus in the icy silence. In the distance, downtown Seoul is emerging slowly from the predawn gloom, but the approach of a new day brings no promise of a brighter day for Lee. He is an Amerasian, the son of a Korean mother and an American father. That alone makes him a cipher, a pariah, beneath notice. He is only matter-of-fact when he says, "I can truthfully say that I've never had a Korean friend."

Few societies would fail to value a presentable young man like Lee. His bearing is erect, his manner precise. He is a devout Presbyterian and a devoted son. He performs well at his modest job as a vegetable chef in one of Seoul's most exclusive private clubs. And yet, the visible fact of his parentage condemns him to contempt or invisibility. When they speak to him at all, his co-workers use a form of address reserved for menials and children. Korean women of every class and profession avoid him. Only by agreeing to a marriage arranged by his church has he managed to avoid a life of celibacy.

A quarter of a century of scorn, ridicule, isolation, has made Lee skeptical about human contact.



Tense and dour, he recoils when approached. Saving money is his major preoccupation; he reserves a third of his \$400 monthly paycheck for the child he and his wife hope to have. "I was weak, and I missed being adopted, but if I have a child, he must escape to the United States," he whispers. "I cannot allow him to endure the life of an Amerasian in Korea."

For Westerners weaned on the myth of the melting pot, the word Amerasian might evoke a benign plending of two great cultures. Koteans, however, pride themselves on being danil min jok, or "one-

blooded people." The 6,000 Amerasians among them are an affront, a mockery of the deeply held shibboleth that Korean blood has remained pure throughout the more than 2,000 years of Korean history. It was possible for Koreans to accept and assimilate the progeny of earlier waves of foreign soldiers, such as the Mongols and the Japanese. Unlike Americans, they did not sire children with disquieting blue eyes, negroid lips or the amber cast of a Chicano.

But Koreans are not alone in their bigotry. In Japan, racial homogeneity is the essence of patriotism, and

America's military involvement in Asia spans decades, and so do some of the children sired by U.S. servicemen. Premvadi Paingara, left, with her mother, is now 20 and a business student at a Bangkok college. Lee Sung-Gu, 27, above, endures the stony scorn of "full-blooded" Koreans and works as a vegetable chef in an exclusive club in Seoul. He says he has never had a Korean friend.

LAveknyoba

in underdeveloped Asian countries farther south, mixed blood smacks of neocolonialism or loose morals. Amerasians are seen as embarrassing social parasites consuming resources that would be better devoted to serving the pure, struggling native population. Still, it is in Korea that the fetish of racial purity is at its ugliest.

Conceived in loneliness by parents temporarily linked, sometimes by no more than the passing of a \$20 bill, the Amerasian in Korea is stereotyped from birth. In a Confucian society defined by a rigid ladder of hierarchical relationships, he occupies the lowest rung. His mother has violated social norms, and for this outrage, she and her alien child must forever wander outside the

fence of respectability.

Not all Amerasians are the products of prostitution. Many are born to peasant girls who were promised eternal devotion by temporarily devoted soldiers. Once the father vanishes, so does the child's chance of being registered on a hojuk, or "family record." The document is nothing more than a portable genealogy, but without it, no respectable school will accept a student, no employer will offer a satisfying job. Uneducated, poor and without hope of advancing themselves, many Amerasians are forced to subsist in the smoke-filled bars and short-time hotels that cluster near every U.S. Army base in Korea.

Most Amerasians in Korea gravitate to Seoul, if only because it offers the largest concentration of Americans. During the day, hundreds of them kill time by skylarking through the cavernous pedestrian subways that are designed to serve as bomb

Vietnamese-American children like this Saigon cigarette girl are second-class citizens so far as the Communist bureaucracy is concerned. They and their mothers are considered "American" and are therefore ineligible to attend public schools, hold a job or receive a government ration card. Says one official, "We'll turn them all over if America is willing to accept them."

shelters. Periodically, some will ask for work at the sprawling U.S. Eighth Army headquarters, but few get jobs: all hiring is controlled by Korean labor contractors.

Female Amerasians unable to find conventional work eventually become "working girls" in the bars of the red-light Etaewon district. Amerasian men are their procurers. It is an unsavory symbiosis, but since the customers are American servicemen, the flesh trade is un-

officially sanctioned.

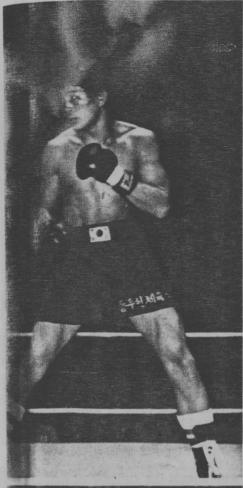
The teenage American soldiers assigned to protect South Korea are a far cry from the colorful heroes depicted on recruiting posters. Dressed in garish velveteen jackets embroidered with snorting dragons and macho nicknames, they go "down to the ville" every night to drink 50-cent beers and negotiate with impassive hookers. In the eyes of Amerasians, these pubescent GIs are models to be emulated and, if possible, followed back to America, the promised land.

"In America I wouldn't have any problems," explains Paul (Kwang Gyun) Shin, a sepia-toned Amerasian who affects the swagger of the South Philadelphia dude he imagines his father to have been. "I could stop fighting and wouldn't have to hear the word twigi [wild seed] every day. I love my mother, but I want my inheritance. If I have my father's face, I should be able to live in my

father's country.'

America's culture may be rooted in Europe, but its vital interests have been tied to Asia ever since 1853, when Commodore Matthew Perry steamed into Tokyo Bay. Perry's dramatic show of force was repeated some four decades later when another American commodore, named George Dewey, confronted the Spanish at Manila. Because of Dewey's victory, America's western frontier moved to the very rim of Asia, thus linking for better or worse the destinies of the two continents.

Twelve major U.S. military installations are scattered along the periphery of East Asia. More than 40,000 military personnel are stationed in South Korea, and another 14,000 in the Philippines. Additional personnel





Force bases in Japan.

The degree to which American GIs have served the interests of humanity can be argued strenuously, but it is hard to dispute their procreative urgency. Thirty years of U.S. military involvement in Korea have produced as many as 6,000 Amerasians. Only 4,500 of an estimated 8,000 Amerasians have been located in Thailand. There are more than 5,000 "Vietnam era" Amerasians in the Philippines, and the number of unwanted half-Americans in Vietnam itself, which hosted better than 2.1 million U.S. soldiers between 1965 and 1973, could conceivably total 25,000. Only the homeless Amerasians in Saigon were ever counted, and when the last U.S. helicopter rose from Tan Son Nhut Airport five years ago, an estimated 8,000 of them were left behind. Adorned with cowlicks and spattered with freckles, many resemble midwestern members of Future Farmers of America. Only their tattered pajamas and the pox they have acquired from sleeping in fetid back alleys brand them as bui doi-"dust of life.

The rumpled, bureaucratic men who control South Vietnam today insist that Amerasians aren't their responsibility. For them, the children and their mothers are "American" and thus ineligible to attend public schools, hold a job or receive a government ration card. "Our society does not need these bad elements," says Vo Vonh Thuan, a former Viet Cong who administers Saigon's Department of Social Welfare. "We'll turn them all over if America is willing to accept them.'

American soldiers were not the first to discover the pleasures of Asia. The Dutch were established on the Malay archipelago by 1700. The British landed at Penang in 1786, and the French entered Cambodia and were well settled by 1863. Miscegenation became commonplace. The Eurasians thus born out of wedlock were never accepted socially-but neither were they left stranded. Illegitimacy was no impediment to becoming a British subject. A simple acknowledgment of paternity was enough to establish Dutch citizenship. And the merest hint of Gallic

are stationed at the three U.S. Air blood earned a French passport in Indochina.

Rather than grant similar forms of no-fault citizenship, the United States has traditionally ignored its bastard sons and daughters. Now, however, there is a bill pending before Congress that could help end the hypocrisy and permit some Amerasians to enter the United States as resident immigrants [see box on page 78].

One of the first to draw attention to the plight of Amerasians was Pearl

#### In the eyes of Amerasians, these pubescent GIs are models to be emulated.

Buck, an American missionary and Nobel Prize winner whose novel about China, The Good Earth, was the literary event of 1931. She was appalled by the discrimination leveled at half-American children and by the poverty in which they lived. Most of them were running wild or being sold for a profit by unscrupulous "adoption" agencies. For Pearl Buck, the alienation she sensed in the children was no different from that which she had personally experienced during the Boxer Rebellion many years before. "I was innocent," she noted in My Several Worlds, "but because I had fair skin, the blue eyes, the blond hair of my race, I was hated, and because of fear of me. [emphasis hers] and my kind, I walked in danger.

Pearl Buck established a foundation in 1964 to subsidize the upbringing of Amerasians in Asia and bring their plight to public attention. All of the foundation's funds today come from American sponsors, who contribute \$21 a month, and an occasional letter, toward the support of the Amerasian child with whom they

are paired.

The Pearl Buck Foundation maintains five offices in East Asia. The Seoul office takes care of about 500 children on an annual budget of \$225,000. The most successful operation, however, is in the Philippines, where 1,700 Amerasians are supported yearly on roughly the same amount of money.

Throughout the long Indochina war, most of the bombs that fell on North Vietnam were dropped from



At St. Vincent's Home for Amerasians in Seoul, Korea, children of mixed blood bide their time waiting for adoption by families in the United States. **Father Alfred** Keane, the Maryknoll priest who runs the home, prowls the bars and streets of "the ville" in search of children and mothers willing to give them up. When they first arrive, the young ones are understandably nervous and homesick. To ease the trauma of adjustment, Father Keane (far right) bundles them together and lets them spend the first few nights in his room.

planes based in Thailand. At the height of the war, there were more than 50,000 U.S. military personnel stationed in the country, a figure that fails to include the 5,000 GIs flown in from Vietnam every month for "rest and recreation," which inevitably included sexual diversion. Faded signs along the highway into Ubon still exhort pleasure seekers to stay at the Playboy Hotel. The Playboy itself is gone, along with the fastfood cafeterias and bomber squadrons. At the Nakhon Phanom air base, known to American servicemen as Naked Fanny, the barracks have been looted, and water buffalo graze on the softball fields.

Only five years ago, the network of U.S. military bases was pumping \$170 million a year into the Thai economy. Today, there is jungle overgrowth, decay, silence. But not everything has returned to the earth. Outside Takhli Air Force Base on Thailand's rice-rich central plain, there is an artifact that has defied the monsoon and the jungle. It is a Phantom jet, and on its side is painted the motto of the tactical fighter wing to which it belonged: The Proud American. "I'd like to get the two hundred Amerasians living around that deserted base and take a picture of them standing in front of that plane,' says Robert Hearn, the portly coordinator for the Pearl Buck Foundation in Thailand. "Our guys were so gung ho, but I just wish they knew what they left behind.

They left behind children, thousands and thousands of children. Most of them continue to live with their mothers, but others have been shunted into orphanages or entrusted to hired guardians. One diminutive child named Kisada has been adopted by Buddhist monks living in the south central town of Korat. Every morning at dawn, he dons his saffron robe and takes to the streets with his alms bowl.

Amerasians in Thailand seldom experience the hostility encountered by their cousins in Korea. Thailand's Theravada Buddhism is based on tolerance. In addition, the Thai-American children have the advantage of youth. Few were born before 1963, the year Washington began its "secret war" in Laos, so the majority are still young. But the racial dif-

ferences remain and become more pronounced as the children mature. Says Hearn, "Some look like they just stepped out from behind a row of Kansas corn.

Alisara Phuli is the tallest girl in her class. On the basketball court at the San Hirun School, three miles from the klong (canal) on which she lives, her five-foot frame towers above the other children. Dribbling the ball across the asphalt, she looks like a diplomat's daughter who has wandered away from the International School. It is only on introduction to a stranger that her true nationality appears. Then, like all polite Thais, she gives the palms-together wai greeting and gently murmurs, "Sawasdee.

Alisara's Teutonic features come from her father, who was an American building contractor living in the Laotian capital of Vientiane. Her mother, Lamai Phuli, who was a maid in the villa next door, feels a special devotion to her blond daughter, but crippling arthritis and the demands made by seven other children make it difficult for her to give Alisara all the attention she needs.

Alisara will finish public school and perhaps even enter college, but her mother fears that beneath her daughter's smiling demeanor, emotional problems may be building strength: "She was silent when I told her that her father didn't know he had a daughter. She still asks about him all the time.

Thailand's generally benign attitude toward children like Alisara wavered briefly three years ago when its Minister of the Interior declared Amerasians ineligible for Thai citizenship under an old law passed to disenfranchise the children of Vietnamese refugees suspected of disloyalty. The ruling shocked the Pearl Buck Foundation; it meant that in addition to being ineligible for passports, Amerasians would also be denied Thai identity cards, entry into universities, civil service jobs, service in the armed forces and land ownership. After frantic persuasion by Hearn and a gentle protest from Washington, the crisis was resolved in a manner typically Thai: the children were construed to be Thai since their fathers had entered the country legally as "welcome guests" of the government.

Thailand's relaxation stems, in part, from the fact that the size of its Amerasian population is stable. In Korea, where the U.S. defense force is permanent, officials are less sanguine. Thirty years ago, the tiny village of Toko-ri was recognized as the location of a James Michener war novel. Today, the 2,000 infantrymen living at nearby Camp Hovey know it only as a beery oasis peopled by 600 bar girls. The village's now tarnished reputation troubles its 44year-old mayor, Paek Yong Chull, but not as much as the parade of orphans for whom he must find shelter. "It doesn't seem to matter if they stay with their mothers or go into an orphanage," he sighs. "These Amerasian children just never learn to adjust.

The thousands of teenage American soldiers sent to Korea every year have adjustment problems of their own. For most of them, it is their first time away from home, and certainly their first experience with a culture that permits controlled prostitution. There is excitement in the air, and a vague hint of danger, but the overwhelming emotion is loneliness. "Guys go down to the bars to keep from thinking about home,' says a sergeant, "but they're still lonely. I sometimes see guys go into the john and just cry.

The Pentagon is not unaware of its soldiers' needs. At Camp Casey, where the 2nd Infantry Division is headquartered, one finds all the recreational facilities of a modern college campus. There is a pinball arcade and a bowling center, curio shops and a candy store. Close to the golf course is an Olympic-size swimming pool and a steam bath that may be crowded on nights when

## The Case for Equity

ney (R-Conn.) introduced a bill in the U.S. House of Representatives that would allow illegitimate children of American military personnel to receive permanent immigrant visas if they satisfy customary health and character criteria. H.R. 3439 does not give all Amerasians a free ticket to the United States. It merely confers a much higher immigration status on orphans of proven American parentage so that they may enter the country legally if a sponsoring organization or family can be found.

Though children of mixed blood living in Vietnam, Laos and Thailand are covered by the proposed legislation, the 6,000 Amerasians in monetary support for Amerasian Korea would be the first to benefit. No one can dispute their status as people "who by their physical appearance and color are prevented from being fully integrated into a society and the culture into which they have been born.

It is orphans such as these, tortured by a legacy not of their making, that H.R. 3439 is intended to assist, but despite the support of

Last year, Rep. Stewart McKin- 62 cosponsors, McKinney's bill is a long way from becoming law. It has languished for more than a year in the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration. It does not have an energetic sponsor in the Senate.

Thousands of lives can be redeemed by the passage of H.R. 3439. If you believe these abandoned offspring of America deserve a chance for happiness, please write Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman (D-N.Y.), chairman of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees, and International Law, or your own congressman.

Those wishing to provide direct children may do so with donations to the Pearl S. Buck Foundation, Green Hills Farm, Perkasie, Pennsylvania 18944, or by supporting the work done by Father Alfred Keane at St. Vincent's Home for Amerasians in Seoul, Korea. Money for St. Vincent's should be sent to Maryknoll Fathers, Maryknoll Post Office, Maryknoll, New York 10545.

there are no amateur theatricals at the playhouse.

Although much is available at government-subsidized prices, most soldiers prefer to find recreation "down in the ville," which in this case is Tongduchon. Every U.S. base in Korea has a ville, and all specialize in goods for the modern soldier. Roach clips and other marijuana paraphernalia, hand-tailored suits, black power amulets and fried onion rings can be had for a fraction of their price back home. The Army, however, knows very well what the favorite commodity is, and accordingly, it makes available to Camp Casey soldiers a "VD Guide" that rates the spirochete level at the 10 top clubs in the ville. Armed with this knowledge and governmentissue prophylactics, the troops test their luck in Tongduchon at such dens as the Starlight, the Beach House or Pop's Store. Success is inevitable, and despite all the precautions, the crowd of Amerasian children idling in the shadows of the bars continues to grow.

Prostitution, however, is not the only contributor to the Amerasian birthrate. Many Amerasian children are the products of marriages based on love and even economics. For the young enlisted man, marrying a Korean means an extra \$160 a month. The girl couldn't be happier, since she gets a chance at going to the United States and, more immediately, enjoys the Post Exchange privileges accorded Army wives. Army commanders realize that many of the women will have children and

#### "I'm too old to attract another man. My goal in life? Maybe to live a few years without pain."

that some of the "families" will be deserted, but they give tacit approval to such marriages if only because they lower the VD rate. According to Rev. Alfred Keane, the 48-year-old director of St. Vincent's Home for Amerasians in Seoul, most Amerasians are born at the behest of the father. "Some GIs have a bad marriage back in the States and want a family to play with here. For others, it's simply a test of virility. Either way, the new volunteer Army lets 'em do what they want."

When a GI father decides to turn his back on the family, a heartbreakingly simple scenario begins to unfold. The father's exit is always accompanied by the promise to return, and for a time, letters and sometimes a little cash do arrive. Relying on her husband's word, the Korean wife borrows money to maintain the apartment and support her child. "It's when the creditors finally come that she has to start hustling," Keane says.

Until 1978, when the Korean government prohibited the practice, adoption brokers preyed on desperate Korean women. The broker would offer to pay off all the woman's debts in return for her child. who became the collateral for the loan. Some women grasped at the proffered bill consolidation as their only possible escape from "the business," but with monthly interest rates running at 10 percent (120 percent per year) on the unpaid balance, they ended up working even harder as prostitutes—and falling deeper into debt.

Today, Father Keane spends most of his waking hours prowling the bars in search of Amerasians and talking to young American soldiers at night about their social responsibilities and the American image abroad. Keane's speeches have not reduced the number of Amerasian births, but a decade of sleuthing has helped nearly 600 Amerasian orphans find new homes in the United States.

"There's a big demand for Amerasians because they are so beautiful," says Keane. "All the letters ask for light-skinned kids of above average intelligence with no emotional problems. Unfortunately, GIs don't always make 'em that way. Many are black and gangly, but we owe them all the chance to walk tall like other people."

Keane believes that Amerasians will never be able to walk tall in Korea. But Donald Haffner, the Pearl Buck Foundation coordinator in Seoul, is equally sure that transporting children to the United States only adds to their sense of alienation. "It's a typical American response to a problem," he says, "just like the idea of the back-to-Africa movement with the blacks." The debate, how-

ever, does not disrupt efforts to help the children.

And what of the Koreans? What becomes of the Korean mothers after their American husbands and racially mixed children leave? What happens to all the lithe and sensuous young bar girls after the stretch marks arrive and cynicism forms a scar?

It is difficult to imagine Lee Sol Ja

#### "Our society does not need these bad elements," says a former Viet Cong official.

as young and beautiful. A prostitute for the past 14 years, she is heavy and dull at age 33. "How can I give myself to anybody else," she asks, her eyes wet, her hands dangling helplessly beside her bloated stomach. "I've already thrown out my body."

She became a prostitute after being raped. "It used to happen a lot, and we were taken to Uijongbu, a town twelve miles north of Seoul, because of the disgrace. When I was young, it was so easy to make money. We all knew about birth control, but a lot of Americans wanted children. We were just girls and didn't think. Everyone believed that the money would continue forever."

Lee tried to shape a different life by marrying an American GI. She became pregnant at his request. He left, and the ticket out of the gritty ville never arrived. "I waited for two years," she says quietly. The tears have stopped. "But finally my money ran out. I couldn't sleep with other men while I was taking care of my husband's child. I thought children were the point of marriage, but he never returned."

After she delivers the child she is now carrying, she plans to have Keane put it up for adoption. Then she will return to her night work as a charwoman and to the rice liquor that dulls the horror a little. "I can't return to my family, and I'm too old to attract another man. My goal in life? Maybe to live a few years without pain."

David DeVoss has served as a *Time* correspondent in Saigon and Hong Kong. Recently, he opened a *Time* bureau in Bangkok, Thailand.

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### Amerasian Student Sponsorship

J. C. V. N. \*

600 GILPIN STREET
DENVER, COLORADO 80218

#### Dear Friends:

Thank you for your inquiry concerning sponsoring an Amerasian child on a student visa. Children needing student visa sponsorship are aged fourteen and older. The children are of Korean/Caucasian or Korean/Black racial origin. These children usually have a Korean mother and an unknown American father.

The paperwork necessary to initiate a student visa consists of: 1. a Form I-20A Certificate of Eligibility and 2. a Form I-134 Affidavit of Support. Both these forms can be obtained from your nearest regional office of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). You must be willing to support the child for the period that he/she is in the United States for education. The affidavit of support will acknowledge your ability to do so to the United States government. The INS Form I-20 Certificate of Eligibility should also include a statement from the child's proposed school or school district that ESL (English as a Second Language) or tutoring is available to the child once he/she is enrolled and that a proficiency in the English language is not a pre-requisite for attendance at the school. There should also be an indication in the letter that the reporting date for the child's school is not absolute - i.e., that he/she may report upon arrival or at the beginning of the next quarter or semester (in the case of university-aged children).

The air fare is your responsibility; there are special rates available and there is a volunteer organization willing to assist in making travel plans for the child's trip to this country. They can arrange for the cheapest air fare available.

Amerasian children currently available are living in Korea at St. Vincent's Home for Amerasian Children in the care of Father Al Keane, a Maryknoll priest who has worked in Korea for the past thirty years. He and some of his staff are working to give the children some rudimentary English but you should assume that these children will require English instruction upon their arrival in this country.

Fr. Keane is also working on obtaining scholarships for the university-aged children. We will have to place this aged child where scholarships are available, unless you (the sponsoring family) are in a position to assist with education expenses. This could be done in one of two ways: you may have the funds to finance the child's education, or you might be able to arrange with a local college or university to grant the child a scholarship. This would require some research on your part.

Fr. Keane will execute a letter granting guardianship to the sponsoring family in order that the child can be included in your insurance coverage and so that you will be able to authorize medical treatment for the child if necessary.

Once you have completed the INS forms (I-20A and I-134) they will be forwarded to Father Keane's staff in Korea along with a letter outlining the age and type of Amerasian child you would feel qualified to sponsor. Then Fr. Keane's staff will fill in the information regarding the child after contacting you directly.

Our agency is acting as a referral agency in these student visa cases. We will a non-profit, non-affiliated assistance corporation and licensed child placement agency

\*FRIENDS OF CHILDREN OF VIET NAM, INC.

assist you in contacting Father Keane and his staff. We can also advise you as to the Immigration forms necessary and how they are to be completed. In addition we will put you in touch with the organization making travel plans for the children.

We are often asked if these children can be adopted. This question is without answer at this point. If a legal way can be developed to make this possible, it would be wonderful, since these children cannot fit into Korean society.

If you are interested in the adoption of school-aged Amerasian children (under fourteen), then please contact our agency to ask for an adoption information packet.

If you are interested in pursuing the sponsorship of an Amerasian student, please send a letter to us indicating what type of child would best fit into your plans. Please indicate the sex, age, racial background and anything else you feel is important for Father Keane to know. We will forward your letter to Father Keane and you will hear directly from him.

Thank you for your interest in the Amerasian children of Korea.

F.C.V.N. staff