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Daly of World Airways

Edward J. Daly, the wild bird of the aviation world, soared into public attention last month as he got the first planeload of orphans out of Vietnam. Defying regulations, he ordered his World Airways jet aloft, even though Saigon's Tan Son Nhut Airport refused clearance and turned off the runway lights. The airlift cost Daly \$1 million.

Meanwhile, Daly was shaking up his industry with a bold proposal to cut fares in the U.S. He petitioned the Civil Aeronautics Board to fly between the East and West coasts for a one-way fare of \$89. That would be \$11 less than the cheapest regular fare, \$148.96 less than the most expensive. Now a supplemental carrier, World would offer daily service, becoming a scheduled airline, a status Daly has long sought.

Starting in 1948 with \$50,000 and two war surplus planes, Daly has built World into the largest of the nonskeds. But with the U.S. involvement in Vietnam ending, he no longer can count on soldiers filling his fourteen jets, and he can't afford to have all that expensive equipment grounded. He estimates his proposed service would bring in \$38 million a year in revenues. But competing airlines are outraged and will ask the CAB to clip Daly's wings.

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• More news: B6,8

The Honolulu Advertiser People Report



Thursday, May 1, 1975

'Somebody had to do it'

By COBEY BLACK
Advertiser Columnist

The day the shooting stopped, I had dinner with a swashbuckling Irishman who for an agonizing month was the conscience of the world.

Ed Daly, president of World Airways, "saw a job to be done, and honey, I did it." The man of the World was man of the hour when he personally commanded the first flight of Vietnamese refugees out of Da Nang. "I wouldn't ask my crews to do what I wouldn't. I got the hell out there. And if you want the story fast and sweet, you'll have to delete the expletives."

It's a long way from a tragic flight over Vietnam to a tranquil suite over Waikiki, and Ed Daly carries a few battle scars — a case of double pneumonia, a broken hand in a cast, an infected left eye and a couple of shattered teeth. Looking remarkably fit under the circumstances, in bright yellow slacks, he's here for an overnight of rest and recreation. "For the past seven weeks, time has meant nothing. We'd go 72 hours at a stretch without laying head to pillow," said Ed, whose airlines has ferried thousands of refugees from the debacle that closed the Vietnamese War.

"WORLD AIRWAYS started out on the ammo run out of Utapau, Thailand, into Phnom Penh, but when I found out our cargo was ammo, I declined and we shifted to the rice run. And hell, honey, we didn't do it for money, we were in there to feed the people even if we lost our ass. We went out to do the most efficient job and the record speaks for itself. And you'd better start deleting right now." I agreed.

Herewith the expurgated version of Daly's Vietnam Diary:

"When I got to Phnom Penh there were six aircraft in the airlift and a third of that fleet was ours, yet we did in excess of 60 per cent of the entire lift, and not for a profit because the more we flew — up to five flights a day, the more we lost because we were paid by the day. We'd unload 95,000 pounds of rice each trip, and I wanted to break the record, not to mention feed a starving population.

"So I took off my shirt and began grabbing sacks, hoping we could unload 95,000 pounds in less than 11 minutes, the record. But the sight of the old man sweating like a coolie was too much for the crew and it cracked 'em up. I'd yell

'Hubba-hubba, chop-chop, mucky-mucky' and a few other things, and they'd drop everything and laugh. It slowed things down to 11 minutes and 38 seconds, so I didn't break my own company's record.

"THEN I GOT to Saigon and saw what was happening in Da Nang, and we took the first flight in to pick up refugees, which is exactly what we did — all women and children. That first flight was disorganized but orderly. It was on the second flight that all hell broke loose! I felt it was safe to get back in with three aircraft, so at my own expense, I brought down two more from Tokyo the next day. And what did the Saigon governments say? 'No dice.' I told them to kiss my (expletive deleted). We flew in two Boeing 707's, flying tandem 30 seconds apart, along with our airlift 691. We were the lead plane, with Captain Ken Healy at controls. And he did a superb job.

"Our Clark Air Force Base station manager, Joe Hrezo, was also aboard, and I told him not to get off without me, but he stepped down to join a news cameraman and when I got back to the lowered ramp, the people were swarming out of the ground, thousands of them. The plane was packed in a minute, and I yelled to Healy to keep it moving while we tried to pick up Hrezo and the newsman."

Daly's delaying tactic, as the hysteria mounted and women and children were trampled by the mobs, was to fire six shots in the air. "The last three may have singed a few heads, and when they heard the empty chamber click, they renewed the charge.

"THAT'S when I cracked a few skulls — something I'm not proud of, but I grabbed Hrezo, tattered and torn. We were still on the second step at 2,000 feet in the air. At 6,000 feet we were still trying to dislodge a body wedged in the ramp. The guy was alive, with two broken legs. We saved him, but damned if he wasn't the SOB we'd seen trample a little girl.

"The cameraman had managed to throw his film aboard, so the rest is recorded history. He got out on a military flight a couple of hours later. On that flight we took out over 300 passengers, and only three of them were kids, four women and two old men. The rest were soldiers.

"But, when an individual's life's in

danger, he'll do anything. I've faced death a couple of times, and either you keep your cool or you lose your life — or take someone else's. But this is a helluva way to spend an enjoyable evening. Let's eat, drink and be merry."

ON THAT CUE, two beautiful hostesses joined us, and Ed introduced them as Valerie Witherspoon and Ridsuko Matsumoto, "great ladies who've been through hell."

I remarked that they more closely resembled angels, fresh out of heaven. "Believe me, half the hell's been putting up with Daly," said Ed, as we headed for a round of double martinis and a dinner of frogs legs at Arthur's. Daly had a second round.

He's been called the "hardest driving chief executive on the airline scene", and rightly so. It's been a quarter of a century since a 27-year-old ex-GI raised \$50,000 and took over a floundering 2-year-old airline with two surplus planes, and since parleyed it into the world's largest charter airline, with annual revenues now around \$100 million and 8½ billion passenger miles to its credit. It touches world points from Tokyo to Tunis, from Rabat to Rio, and from Madrid to Des Moines. It flew the first commercial non-stop flight from New York to Honolulu.

I told boot-shod Ed that any guy who does things in such a big way has got to be from Texas.

"Texas hell, honey, I'm a drugstore cowboy from Chicago."

SON OF A retired fireman who died when Ed was 15, leaving a widow and four kids, Edward J. Daly learned early to fend for himself. He survived Chicago University as a chemical engineering student by running a trucking company on the side. He worked for six months in a California bank before joining a couple of veteran buddies in an airfreight business.

"I've been in a lot of businesses," continued Ed. "Last year I sold one of California's largest banks to Lloyds of London for \$115 million. But for me it's not the money that matters, it's doing the impossible that gives me the greatest satisfaction in life."

Tough, two-fisted, but with a strong and loyal front staff that has been with him for years, including Vice President Brian Cooke, formerly of Hawaiian Air-



Daly: The record speaks for itself.

lines, Daly took on Operation Refugee because "somebody had to. While the fat cats were playing golf and tennis, millions were suffering. And what we attempted to do was to make them realize exactly what was happening. There was no time to go through a dozen channels when thousands of lives were on the line. Decisions had to be made on the hour, by the hour and before the hour."

Ed pounded his good fist on the table, explaining that the one in the cast was broken when the Danish leader of an orphan airlift out of Guam became a drunken threat to passengers and crew. "When he started slapping the kids around, I let him have it.

"IF I SEEM to be an embittered man, I am. But I'm not discouraged, because

I'm confident some of our politicians will now recognize the facts before they make the decisions.

"And in the name of the Lord, my only hope is that we salvaged something from the rubble we created."

Ed wears a medallion personally presented by the Pope for "noncombatant duty", and owns two Arabian horses that are a personal gift of King Hussein of Jordan.

"I'm an outdoor guy and my favorite sports, besides the obvious one, are riding and tennis. My wife and I own a home in Orinda, California, formerly the Alexander home, of Alexander & Baldwin. I have a daughter and two grandchildren. I'm 52 and right now I feel 152, but let's go where there's some music."

Viet Orphan Airlift Praised

By HERB STOENNER
Denver Post Staff Writer

The closing of Continental Care Center Saturday from a halfway house for orphans airlifted from Vietnam marks the end of a highly complex, rumor-ridden and emotional venture into humanitarianism.

In its wake are happy adoptive parents, disgruntled adults who had hoped to adopt and were still on the waiting list and, possibly, legal questions for the future.

And from those responding to questions about the project, there has been high praise for the work of the two lay, facilitating agencies that caught the brunt of the emergency with the fall of Saigon. They had been accustomed to bringing out orphans one at a time until the mass exodus.

"We're out of business now, and we've closed shop," said an aide of Friends of Children of Vietnam in Denver. The other agency is Friends for All Children in Boulder.

The agencies said that if credit is due, it belongs to institutions and other agencies who helped and to 2,950 dedicated volunteers.

Red Cross Praise

James Williams, assistant director of the Mile High Chapter of American Red Cross, said he felt the two agencies had done an excellent job of arrangements—despite some complaints of mismanagement—considering the circumstances under which they were forced to operate.

Red Cross worked through these agencies because they had been at work in Saigon before the emergency began.

There had been reports of chaos in the baby receiving clinics (denied), nonorphans being transported (officially denied in media stories), delays in processing the children and children landing in Denver with no home to go to.

Williams said he visited the clinics to check on the purported "chaos" but couldn't substantiate the reports in view of the dedication of the volunteers. He also said that the children arrived in fairly good condition and that he saw most of their legal papers. He believes the percentage of children arriving in Denver who weren't headed for homes was very slight.

He said most of the clinic reports related to medical care, and he apologized for an oversight in not mentioning Children's Hospital in an earlier listing of hospitals that helped. Children's handled 20 cases. He said all hospitals in Denver offered help but not all were used.

'Unavoidable Delays'

Williams said there were some unavoidable delays as in the crash of an airlift plane in Vietnam. Legal papers for the

children were aboard that plane, so children had to be held in Denver until more papers were reconstructed in Saigon.

Both children's agencies denied that the orphans were flown to Denver without a home to go to. At least, the homes for the children were "in process." Most of the children were on their way to homes in two or three days, the agencies said.

Williams also explained that Red Cross had a philosophical problem in entering this project. He said that the problem related to one of the Geneva Convention rulings that children in war-torn countries were to be left in the country, but Red Cross entered on an emergency basis to relieve suffering.

Miss Ava Snook, adoption consultant for the State of Colorado, who was involved in the project, said that it is terribly important that records on these children exist and that they are correct because of possible future suits.

Therefore, she defended some delays in processing of children because she said that the required home visits take time.

Ms. Pat Dempsey, volunteer working in funding for Friends of All Children in Boulder, said that most of the children airlifted by her agency were under one year. She described the process briefly.

The children would be checked out physically in Vietnam, and the lists of approved adoptive families would be studied. This would take into account the preferences of the family. Generally girls, racially mixed children and younger ones were preferred.

If the adoptive family approved, an attorney in Vietnam would adopt the child, and an attorney in the United States would adopt the child for the family. The family would pay all attorney fees and transport charges.

Ms. Dempsey said that all their agency's children had destinations, even those who were being moved to foreign countries.

Hospital Step

She said that on arrival in Denver the children would go to the Continental Care Center, 2201 Downing St., for examination and processing; and if medical problems were found, the children would be moved directly to the hospitals. On behalf of her agency, she thanked the many Denver pediatricians who volunteered their services.

She said that one flight of children on the way to Italy had been recalled to Denver because some doubts had arisen that these children might end up in orphanages instead of homes because of the economic conditions. After the family placements were confirmed, the flight resumed.

She said that the whole staff of Friends for All Children flew to the West Coast after the plane crash to help with the

legal paper work. The Boulder agency lost 143 children in that crash.

Mrs. Shirley Barnes, executive director of Continental Care, provided an excellent example of community cooperation in the project. Because the center wasn't quite ready to open as a nursing home, Mrs. Barnes acquired the permission of her landlords to offer the half-furnished facilities to the children of Vietnam. There were beds but no furniture. The offer was made rent-free, and Mrs. Barnes was present daily to offer her expertise to volunteers appearing at the center. Mrs. Barnes, former surgeon-general assistant, helped in the French evacuation of Vietnam 22 years ago.

Definite Destinations

Mrs. Cheryl Markson, executive director of the Denver-based Friends of Children of Vietnam, said that no other flights of orphans were involved except those appearing in news stories, and she said that most of the children landing in Denver had definite destinations, although some had processing problems and time-consuming home visit delays. Children from this agency were taken to Life Center, 5775 E. 8th Ave.

Mrs. Markson called the pressure of the airlift tremendous and the experience rewarding.

And for those not involved in the project, she alluded to large hidden costs in the airlift project—expanded agency staffs, employment of professional social workers to do home visits, transportation costs, housekeeping costs such as laundry and enormous long-distance phone charges involved in completing arrangements.

In a story about airlift volunteers which appeared last Thursday in the Living '75 section of The Denver Post, the affiliation of Mrs. Susan Taylor was incorrectly stated. Mrs. Taylor, a nurse and administrative officer at Life Center, represents Friends of the Children of Vietnam, not Friends for All Children in Boulder.

Check on Status of Orphans

A decision on the adoption status of 2,700 Vietnamese orphans brought to the Bay Area and Los Angeles in the April airlift may be prolonged under an order by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

The appeals court in San Francisco suggested Thursday that U.S. District Court Judge Spencer Williams could "appropriately" look into the status of children who already have passed through this jurisdiction and have been placed in adoption homes abroad.

This could mean investigation into as many as 500 orphans who have not been considered previously.

The appeals court in the same decision said Judge Williams must make available to attorneys for orphans who contend they had been kidnapped all the pertinent records of the orphans.

Judge Williams previously had followed a suggestion of immigration and naturalization authorities to limit discovery of such information to a sampling.

Limiting the access to these records was an improper restriction as the records are confidential but not restricted, the appeals court said.

The original suit was brought by guardians of children who claimed they had living parents or family still in Vietnam.

Judge Williams heard evidence and ordered immigration authorities to produce the known facts about the children and a team of specially appointed experts to analyze the data.

Both the guardians of the children and the immigration service appealed aspects of Judge Williams' procedures.

The court of appeals found that, on the record before it, it "appears that some of the 2,700 children airlifted were brought here improperly."

U.S. Court S.F. Chronicle Probe of Viet Orphans' Files

The U.S. Court of Appeals in San Francisco ordered that there be a judicial review of the records of all of the several thousand Vietnamese orphan children brought to the United States at the end of the Vietnam War.

The court acted in a lawsuit being fought by an ad hoc Committee to Protect the Rights of Vietnamese Children.

The group has contended through several months of litigation in the federal courts that many of the children who were brought to the United States are not true orphans, but have relatives in Vietnam to whom they should be returned.

Under the appeals court ruling, attorneys appointed by the U.S. District Court to review all the records and attorneys for the orphans will be permitted to see all the files.

The two persons who will review the records are Oakland attorney Mae Yonemura and Vancouver legal scholar and lawyer Ta Van, head of the Asia Legal Studies Department at the University of British Columbia.

U.S. District Judge Sherman A. Kaplan will preside at a November 20 hearing when the case is argued and taken in the case.

At a press conference yesterday, Sherman Cohen, one of the attorneys representing the children, stressed that even if a child is found to be a childless orphan it does not necessarily mean he would be returned immediately to Vietnam.

"We want any repatriation to be accomplished in a responsible manner, with the best interests of the child kept foremost in mind," Cohen said.

Before any child returns home we want to make certain there is a home waiting and this will be accomplished by a tracing procedure established through a responsible international agency in cooperation with the South Vietnamese government.

Cohen said promises of cooperation and help have already been obtained from the International Union for Child Welfare, the Central Council of the International Red Cross and the U.S. National High Commissioner for Refugees.

Cohen said that in some cases children have been in child day care centers in Vietnam, were simply scooped up and flown to the United States although they had parents who came for them daily.

Denver Post
5/25/75

to U.S. Judge William Doyle.

The report lists both the good and bad

monitors felt the
gation decree "was well imple-
most schools."

—Nevertheless, "a white noose is form-
ing around the city" due to continuing
movement to the suburbs. At least a por-
tion of this movement "has its roots in" the
desegregation program."

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Protests Voiced At Babylift Plan

By JOHN DUNNING
Denver Post Staff Writer
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A Denver-based organization that helped bring more than 400 children out of South Vietnam in a frantic babylift last month now is planning to expand its operations to at least one other country.

The nation most seriously considered as the next target of the group's operations is India, The Denver Post has learned.

Mrs. Cheryl Markson, executive director of the group, confirmed that much talk on "where to go next" has centered on India, "but any country you could mention has been suggested."

"In all probability," Mrs. Markson said, Friends of Children of Vietnam (FCVN) "will go into another country."

Complain to Governor

But even as the new plans were being formed, mutiny reared its head within the ranks, as FCVN volunteers and adoptive parents began to turn out in protest.

Almost a dozen of them took their complaints to the Colorado governor's office Thursday. For about two hours they met behind closed doors with representatives of Colorado social services, the Denver office of U.S. Rep. Pat Schroeder, and the governor's ombudsman.

Rick Wedgle of the governor's office asked for the meeting after he had received more than 10 complaints from "six or eight" families regarding FCVN's handling of the Vietnam babylift. By late Friday, about six more families had contacted Wedgle, pushing the individual

complaints against FCVN to more than 30.

The protesters were trying to block FCVN's application for its license renewal as an adoption agency. Wedgle said he wouldn't discuss specific complaints until he has met with Mrs. Markson, a meeting now set for 8:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Protests Listed

But sources told The Post that the bulk of the complaints, centered on these general areas:

—The care given children at FCVN centers on both sides of the Pacific Ocean.

One story described opened baby formulas left unrefrigerated for more than a day before feeding. Children allegedly were placed without regard for their emotional well-being. One woman told of a sister and brother being sent to separate homes, with traumatic results for the little girl.

—The money collected by FCVN from adoptive parents.

Even in the final days, when babylift transportation costs were absorbed by the government, parents were paying \$800 for a child. Now they want to know what happened to that money, estimated conservatively at \$300,000. Did the money go for the welfare of South Vietnam children, or is it being saved to establish adoption tentacles in other nations?

—The questionable "orphan" status of children airlifted out of South Vietnam.

Volunteers told of children who arrived

Continued on page 36, section C.

PROTESTS RIP DENVER-BASED UNIT

Babylift Looks to Other Lands

FROM PAGE 1

with lists of American contacts. They told of kids who could play Chopin on the piano and were fluent in three or more languages. Some of the kids, it was charged, admitted that they had been "coached" on what to say when they arrived in the United States, but whether such "coaching" was done here or in Saigon is unclear.

—The alleged "dictatorial" policies of Mrs. Markson and Carol Westlake, FCVN adoption director.

During the Thursday meeting, some volunteers charged that families were passed over in the adoptive process at the whim of the directors.

Mrs. Markson, in an interview Friday, denied that either she or Mrs. Westlake had exercised any improper influence in the placement of children. "In no way would I maliciously interfere with someone's getting a child even if I could have," she said.

Records Asked on Children

By JOHN TOOHEY

Denver Post Staff Writer

A federal judge in San Francisco has ordered the government to check all available records of Vietnamese children brought into the United States since April 1.

Order to the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization (INS) was issued as the result of a lawsuit filed in San Francisco.

The defendants named are two Colorado

"Children were assigned on the basis of when the home study (of prospective parents) was approved by our social workers," she said. "I think most of the people complaining was well-intentioned, but they just don't understand the timetable in which this was done."

"We had over 200 applications for children even before South Vietnam started to fall. Some people were unhappy that they didn't get a child, and because Carol and I ran it, they blame us."

Mrs. Markson said charges that children might not have been orphans, that they had been "coached" or told to lie, were "ridiculous. Many kids in orphanages are bilingual. That's not even worth commenting on."

Siblings weren't separated, she said. "That report is completely erroneous. We did have children who we knew weren't siblings. But they were claiming they were so they could stay together."

As for the money, Mrs. Markson said FCVN "has always charged an adoption fee." In the days before the airlift, an adoptive family might have to pay as much as \$1,400 when the price of transportation was added in.

The airlift eliminated the transportation charge, but it also created a tremendous crush of work. "We had attorneys' fees; we had six new phone lines put in; we had printing costs. We had to put two part-time secretaries on full time."

"There were medical bills. We still owe a \$15,000 medical bill to Children's Hospital, and

it's not all in yet."

But, she said, FCVN does have "some money on hand. I couldn't tell you the amount offhand."

And there are definite plans for expansion into other countries.

Mrs. Markson said some of the money will be used to establish a Vietnam "cultural resource center" in Denver, providing cultural and historical information to children and their adoptive parents.

She said a detailed breakdown of FCVN finances hasn't been prepared and "isn't one of our priorities right now. But I imagine it could be arranged."

To the families and volunteers, the coming confrontation is a sad ending to a worthwhile project. Many still have strong emotional ties to FCVN. Personal friendships were formed over the years, and some still exist.

Some of the families haven't yet received final papers on their children. There were stated fears of recriminations, and of losing babies through trumped-up formalities, so Wedgle closed the meeting last week to protect their identities.

Later some of them talked with The Post, on the condition that their anonymity would continue.

They told how FCVN started in 1967 as a small group of doctors interested in sending medical supplies to Vietnam. After a few years the group began to flounder and by 1970 was in a state of limbo.

Meanwhile, about a dozen families with adopted Vietnamese children began to band together and see each other socially. The need for a formal

structure was discussed, and in 1971 the families formed the present FCVN, absorbing the constitution and bylaws established by the doctors years before.

By 1973, FCVN had grown into an adoption agency licensed by the state. Severe tensions developed on the board of directors, and FCVN split into two factions. The adoptive faction formed in Boulder as Friends for All Children and has continued to operate as a separate agency.

FCVN, meanwhile, continued in Denver. It retained its adoption license, but was primarily a counseling and supply service, helping people who wanted to adopt and sending supplies to Vietnam. Mrs. Markson and Mrs. Westlake offered to work and gradually assumed the positions as directors of the group.

The splitting of the factions was never smooth, though both groups have gone to great lengths to avoid open bloodletting. But resentment and hard feelings always were just beneath the surface, ready to erupt in open hostility at any time.

At FCVN, more tension developed as the group moved more and more into the adoptive process. Many members felt that FCVN should remain primarily a counseling agency, that it could be most effective outside the area of adoptions.

It culminated last fall in large-scale resignations from the FCVN board. After the shakeup, Mrs. Markson emerged as the guiding light.

Schroeder studies custody of Viet babies. Page 30.

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...ior. outcome could determine whether coal-slurry pipelines become the principal carriers of Western coal in future decades, since four additional ones now in operation in the States runs 238 miles from the Black Mesa mine in Arizona to southern Nevada. The pipeline now being debated would be the longest, most

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Schroeder Studies Viet Baby Custody

Growing confusion over custody of Vietnamese children processed by Colorado-based adoption agencies was termed a "real tragedy" by Rep. Pat Schroeder, D-Colo., Friday.

Mrs. Schroeder, in a Denver visit, said her office is "looking into" mounting complaints against one of the agencies, Friends of Children of Vietnam (FCVN).

"So far, we can't find anything that's clearly a violation," she said.

"But here are all these adoptive parents, who already have babies in their home. They don't have final papers yet, so what can they say?"

Mrs. Schroeder said her office will continue investigating reports of unsanitary conditions and poor treatment of children in the FCVA facility, and will press for an account of the money collected by the agency in its "babylift" operation.

A representative from her office will attend a meeting in the governor's office next Tuesday between state officials and Mrs. Cheryl Markson, FCVN executive director.

But ultimately, she said, a decision on the FCVN case will have to come out of the Colorado Department of Social Services in the licensing process.

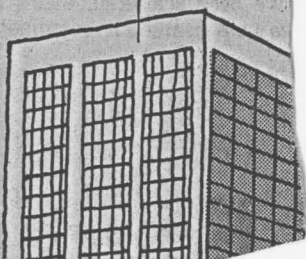
FCVN is applying for renewal of its license as an adoption agency and is planning to expand its operations into other countries.

Even if the probe uncovers only moral violations of the agency's purpose, Mrs. Schroeder said she will recommend that social services deny the renewal and ask for a complete accounting of money paid to FCVN.

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exciting array of shops
stores. Taste-tempting
Banking and other
business services facilities
scaping. And plenty
All in one beautiful

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Protests Voiced At Babylift Plan

By JOHN DUNNING
Denver Post Staff Writer
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During the Thursday meeting, some volunteers charged that families were passed over in the adoptive process at the whim of the directors.

Mrs. Markson, in an interview Friday, denied that either she or Mrs. Westlake had exercised any improper influence in the placement of children. "In no way would I maliciously interfere with someone's getting a child even if I could have," she said.

"Children were assigned on the basis of when the home study (of prospective parents) was approved by our social workers," she said. "I think most of the people complaining was well-intentioned, but they just don't understand the timetable in which this was done."

"We had over 200 applications for children even before South Vietnam started to fall. Some people were unhappy that they didn't get a child, and because Carol and I ran it, they blame us."

Mrs. Markson said charges that children might not have been orphans, that they had been "coached" or told to lie, were "ridiculous. Many kids in orphanages are bilingual. That's not even worth commenting on."

Siblings weren't separated, she said. "That report is completely erroneous. We did have children who we knew weren't siblings. But they were claiming they were so they could stay together."

As for the money, Mrs. Markson said FCVN "has always charged an adoption fee." In the days before the airlift, an adoptive family might have to pay as much as \$1,400 when the price of transportation was added in.

The airlift eliminated the transportation charge, but it also created a tremendous crush of work. "We had attorneys' fees; we had six new phone lines put in; we had printing costs. We had to put two part-time secretaries on full time."

"There were medical bills. We still owe a \$15,000 medical bill to Children's Hospital, and

it's not all in yet."

But, she said, FCVN does have "some money on hand. I couldn't tell you the amount offhand."

And there are definite plans for expansion into other countries.

Mrs. Markson said some of the money will be used to establish a Vietnam "cultural resource center" in Denver, providing cultural and historical information to children and their adoptive parents.

She said a detailed breakdown of FCVN finances hasn't been prepared and "isn't one of our priorities right now. But I imagine it could be arranged."

To the families and volunteers, the coming confrontation is a sad ending to a worthwhile project. Many still have strong emotional ties to FCVN. Personal friendships were formed over the years, and some still exist.

Some of the families haven't yet received final papers on their children. There were stated fears of recriminations, and of losing babies through trumped-up formalities, so Wedge closed the meeting last week to protect their identities.

Later some of them talked with The Post, on the condition that their anonymity would continue.

They told how FCVN started in 1967 as a small group of doctors interested in sending medical supplies to Vietnam. After a few years the group began to flounder and by 1970 was in a state of limbo.

Meanwhile, about a dozen families with adopted Vietnamese children began to band together and see each other socially. The need for a formal

structure was discussed, and in 1971 the families formed the present FCVN, absorbing the constitution and bylaws established by the doctors years before.

By 1973, FCVN had grown into an adoption agency licensed by the state. Severe tensions developed on the board of directors, and FCVN split into two factions. The adoptive faction formed in Boulder as Friends for All Children and has continued to operate as a separate agency.

FCVN, meanwhile, continued in Denver. It retained its adoption license, but was primarily a counseling and supply service, helping people who wanted to adopt and sending supplies to Vietnam. Mrs. Markson and Mrs. Westlake offered to work and gradually assumed the positions as directors of the group.

The splitting of the factions was never smooth, though both groups have gone to great lengths to avoid open bloodletting. But resentment and hard feelings always were just beneath the surface, ready to erupt in open hostility at any time.

At FCVN, more tension developed as the group moved more and more into the adoptive process. Many members felt that FCVN should remain primarily a counseling agency, that it could be most effective outside the area of adoptions.

It culminated last fall in large-scale resignations from the FCVN board. After the shakeup, Mrs. Markson emerged as the guiding light.

Schroeder studies custody of Viet babies. Page 30.

Records Asked on Children

By JOHN TOOHEY

Denver Post Staff Writer

A federal judge in San Francisco has ordered the government to check all available records of Vietnamese children brought into the United States since April 1.

The order to the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) was issued as the result of a lawsuit filed in San Francisco.

Among the defendants named in the suit are two Colorado adoption agencies.

The suit was filed by a San Francisco woman—a Vietnamese by birth and married to an American serviceman. She had volunteered to help care for and process the hundreds of Vietnamese children brought to the United States in April at the Presidio at San Francisco.

She claimed in her suit, in which she acted as a guardian for three of the children, that many of the children brought here weren't orphans or abandoned and had no right to be here.

Her suit named as defendants several officials of the U.S. Departments of State, Defense and Justice, the California Department of Health and Welfare and several American adoption organizations.

Much of the action in the case moved to Denver May 15 and 16 when U.S. Dist. Judge Sherman Finesilver heard arguments on motions for discovery and the taking of depositions from officials of the Friends for All Children (FFAC) at Boulder and the Friends of Children of Vietnam (FCVN) of Denver.

The Boulder and Denver organizations were in the forefront of the adoption effort long before the swift evacuation in April of the children to the United States.

Following the hearing, Judge Finesilver ordered the two Colorado organizations to produce 10 files on the children in their care to show how complete they are and to determine how the files have been developed and used.

The files were to be used by the plaintiffs in the San Francisco hearing last week.

In her complaint, the Vietnamese bride of the American claimed that at least three children she talked with at the Presidio said they had parents in Vietnam and relatives here and that they were sent here only to escape Viet Cong and North Vietnamese reprisals.

The suit questioned the status of other children. It asked for an injunction to halt all federal and private activities directed toward adoptive placement of the children until their legitimate entries into the United States could be determined by a third, disinterested party.

U.S. Dist. Judge Spencer Williams at San Francisco, however, said he wasn't "inclined" to grant all the requests asked in the suit. He said he was concerned about "some possible irregularities in the paperwork" concerning some of the children.

He ordered the INS to check all the children's records — those arriving here after April 1 — to discover any "possible irregularities."

Intent of the order there, according to a San Francisco court spokesman, is to seek out and discover any children who may have come to the United States illegally in the confusion of bringing the hundreds of orphans and abandoned here.

A spokesman for the Boulder-based group warned however, that many of the children aren't orphans in the true sense.

Mother of Exiles

By ART BUCHWALD

WASHINGTON—The Statue of Liberty was gazing toward Europe when I tapped her on her shoulder. "Ma'am," I said, "if you look the other way, we have about 55,000 Vietnamese refugees coming in from Guam and the Philippines. I thought you might hold your torch high and light the way for them."

The statue seemed irritated. "We have too many people in this country now. What am I going to do with 55,000 Orientals?"

"The same thing you did with everybody else. Welcome them. They're tired and they're poor and they are yearning to breathe free."

"And what about jobs? Who is going to support them?" she said petulantly.

"You never worried about that before," I said. "Whoever came to this country eventually found jobs, and almost all of them made very good citizens. There is no reason to think the Vietnamese will be different. After all, you are the mother of exiles."

"TIMES HAVE changed," she growled. "The American people aren't that thrilled about having a bunch of refugees dumped on them. Who is going to feed them? How many will go on welfare? How do we know their kids won't get in trouble in the streets? We have enough problems in this country without asking for more."

"But," I pleaded, "we're responsible for them being refugees. We screwed up a country like it's never been screwed up before. We supported their corrupt governments, loaded them down with weapons they couldn't use, defoliated their rice paddies and wrecked their families."

"We left the country in a mess. The least we can do is take in whatever huddled masses escaped to our teeming shore."

"That's easy for you to say," the Statue of Liberty replied, "but we have to think of Americans first. They don't want any more foreigners in this country."

"But most of our fathers and grandfathers and great-grandfathers were foreigners. You've welcomed them all. Tell me the truth. Do you have anything against Orientals?"

"I don't personally. But you know how some people are. The Vietnamese have different habits, and they're from another culture. They just don't fit in. Besides I'm supposed to welcome the homeless from Europe. That's why I'm looking in that direction."

"These people need refuge," I protested. "Their lives are in ruins. Remember a few weeks ago when they flew in orphans from Vietnam and Cambodia? Nobody seemed to object to that."

"It's not the same thing," the statue said. "You can adopt orphans. But what can you do with refugees?"

"Help them find homes, jobs, make them citizens."

"IT'S OUT OF the question. It isn't our fault they lost the war. Look, no one minds one or two Vietnamese in a community. But you're talking about thousands. They'll stick out like a sore thumb. The unions would never stand for it."

"Please don't turn your back on them," I begged. "If somebody just said, 'Welcome. We're glad you came,' most Americans would go along with it. The American people gripe a lot, but they'll do the right thing if somebody leads them. If you could shine your torch toward the Golden Gate Bridge, perhaps the people will be ashamed of the way they've behaved."

The Statue of Liberty turned slowly. There was a tear in her eye. "I've been here so long I almost forgot why I was holding this lamp. Where did you say I should shine my torch?"

"Over there. Hold it as high as you can and point it toward the West so every American can see it. That's it. Now repeat after me, 'Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door.'"

Los Angeles Times



Denver Post Photo by David Cupp

ARMY SPECIALIST LINDA CASEY CARRIES ORPHAN TO NURSING HOME

The Vietnamese infant, Nguyen Thi My, was last arrival in seven-year-old program.

Laughter, Tears Are Absent As Vietnamese Babylift Ends

By DAVID CUPP

Denver Post Staff Writer

There was no laughter. There were no tears. An Army specialist handed a Vietnamese orphan over to a waiting volunteer and it was over.

The babylift had ended.

It started more than seven years ago, when the first Vietnamese orphans arrived at Denver's Stapleton International Airport.

On that night there was laughter — and tears. There was the joy of a parent holding a son for the first time.

On that Nov. 10, 1968, night, the moment belonged to John and LeSanne Buchanan of 7276 S. Birch St., Arapahoe County, and Jim and Marcia Bumpus, 1094 W. 30th Place, Golden. Their Vietnamese children were

The scene was to repeat itself more than a hundred times with different children and different parents in the Denver terminal over the next seven years.

The babylift procedure was efficient and military. The children were taken off the plane, given to either army or Red Cross personnel, then taken to the Continental Nursing Home, where they would be held until their health was stabilized and they could be processed for adoption.

For seven years, Friends of Children of Vietnam (FCVN) has been helping children and refugees in Vietnam, and helping guide parents in adopting Vietnamese children.

Two women, LeSanne Buchanan and Wende Grant—now with Friends for All Children

from a Denver doctor who had started the organization two years before to get medical aid to children and hospitals in Vietnam.

HELP PARENTS

The two women worked to get money to an Australian school teacher, Rosemary Taylor, to keep her founding home for orphans in Saigon going and to help other parents interested in adopting Vietnamese orphans.

"Things were different then," Mrs. Buchanan explained. "So few wanted to adopt."

"When someone called about adopting, you hoped," Mrs. Buchanan paused. "you prayed, that they would go through with it."

"It's hard to believe that something that started so small and so long ago could have

Saturday Review



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Let the Children Come

Efforts to bring Vietnamese orphans and homeless children to the United States have run into severe opposition from child psychologists and cultural anthropologists.

These experts contend that the rescue operations are being carried out by well-intentioned but misguided people who have very little knowledge of what is involved in plucking children out of a highly developed culture and setting them down in a totally different society. Children, it is argued, are not for transplanting; they do not adjust automatically to strange faces, words, foods, customs. The result is cultural shock, the effects of which, according to the experts, can produce long-lasting mental dislocations.

How valid is this analysis?

Some years ago, the editors of the *Saturday Review* developed a plan for bringing to the United States a group of disfigured girls who were casualties of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. Under the plan, the girls would have the services of leading American plastic and rehabilitative surgeons. While not in the hospital they would live with American families. Since most of them would require a half-dozen or more operations, their stay in this country would last at least a year. The Society of Friends in America accepted responsibility for placing the girls in American homes and

for providing vocational training if desired. The U. S. Air Force agreed to provide transportation.

No sooner did we announce these plans than formidable opposition developed. Specialists in cultural anthropology and psychology made public statements severely criticizing the entire project. They said it was irresponsible to lift children out of a far-off land with highly defined traditions and expect them to adjust to an entirely different way of life. It was predicted that the project would collapse within two weeks after the girls arrived because they would be unable to sustain the cultural shock.

It was said, moreover, that if any of the girls should die during, or as the result of, the complicated surgical operations, Japanese-American relations would be badly strained. The experts urged President Eisenhower to oppose the project or, at least, not to sanction the use of the U.S. Air Force for the program.

President Eisenhower accorded us the courtesy of letting us explain the project to him personally. I informed the President of the needs of the girls and described the credentials of the surgeons and physicians who were volunteering their services. I spoke of the support of the Society of American Friends and of the American Red Cross. I told him of the long-term role of the *Saturday Review*

in carrying out rehabilitation programs in Hiroshima and, in particular, of our "Moral Adoption Program," in which readers of the magazine agreed to help in the upbringing of Hiroshima children who had been orphaned by the bombing. Finally, I told the President we were fully cognizant of the risks involved in plastic and rehabilitative surgery, as were the Hiroshima Maidens and their Japanese families. Nor were we minimizing the problems they would have in adapting to American society. But the Quakers were experienced in dealing with such situations. We felt confident that the problems, while difficult, were manageable.

The President gave us his full backing, and the disfigured and crippled girls from Hiroshima were brought to the United States. During the full period of their stay in this country, there was not a single case of homesickness or cultural shock. The experts turned out to be completely wrong. All their academic training hadn't taught them the one lesson that should both precede and transcend specialized knowledge: love and warmth can negate cultural shock. The experience of the Hiroshima girls in living with their American families enabled them to bridge gaps between the two societies.

One American anthropologist of worldwide reputation had confidently asserted that just the change to an American diet would confront us with the need to fly the girls back to Hiroshima within a month. As month after month passed without a solitary instance to support his gloomy prediction, one might have expected the anthropologist to have acknowledged his error. Not so.

This is not to say that the Hiroshima Maidens undertaking was without failure or anguish. One of the girls died while under anesthesia; I was at the hospital at the time. My first thoughts were of her parents. What do we say to them? They had entrusted their child to our care. I knew that for the rest of my life I would be haunted by the memory of the doctors working over Tomoko in the resuscitator, trying to start up her heart before the supply of oxygen in the brain ran out. My mind turned to the other girls. Six of them were scheduled for surgery during the next three days. They could not be blamed if they decided to hold back or even to ask that they be returned to Hiroshima. I thought, too, of the predictions of the experts that a single tragedy could become an international incident and that Japanese-American



N.C.
The "Hiroshima Maidens" at a reunion fifteen years after their visit to the United States for plastic and rehabilitative surgery. The youngsters in the photograph are the children of the young ladies who participated in SR's program.

can relations might be adversely affected.

I was not prepared for what was to happen. Within a few hours after I had sent the wire to Tomoko's parents, I received a cable from them consoling me. It was simply but exquisitely worded and completely absolved the doctors of any blame. It expressed full confidence in the continuation of the project. The Hiroshima girls were no less eloquent in reassuring all of us who felt a sense of responsibility for the tragedy. The morning after Tomoko's death, the girls who were scheduled for surgery begged Dr. Arthur Barsky, Dr. Bernard Simon, and Dr. Sidney Kahn not to change their minds about going ahead with the operations.

The Japanese press was equally generous in its understanding. There was an outpouring of sympathy for the Americans. Not a single editorial comment on the tragedy, out of the many hundreds of news clippings we saw, indicated any negative effect on relations between the two countries. The dominant theme was

that the American doctors had done their best.

IN COMING to the United States, the Vietnamese orphans are not being transferred to cold and impersonal institutions; they are becoming members of families. To be sure, they will encounter much that is strange, but they will also discover that regeneration and adaptation are among the most powerful forces in life. Their potentialities for creative growth will be nourished in the atmosphere of complete caring and acceptance. Both the children and their new American families will be astonished at the ease with which it is possible to communicate across the vaunted barriers of language differences.

Not all the arguments, of course, against bringing the Vietnamese orphans to the United States are based on anthropological or sociological grounds. Much weight is being given to political considerations. It is being asserted that the children are being exploited for propagandist purposes, and that the historic

sense of American sympathy for war victims, especially children, is being stirred up as a means of getting the United States involved in Vietnam all over again.

We recognize that some people in government are not unmindful of the mileage that mercy has to offer. But it is absurd to set aside the dictates of conscience just because we are afraid of being politically manipulated.

There is also the argument that Vietnam does not have a monopoly of orphans in the world, and that millions of children in the Sahara, in India, in Bangladesh, and in South America will more than satisfy the craving of Americans to provide tender loving care. To the extent that this argument has validity, it should not cause Americans to turn away from Vietnamese children but should cause them to be equally open wherever human need exists.

Expertise always has its limitations, but never more so than when it tries to diagram human response or find reasons for curtailing compassion. N.C.

Viet Airlift

Orphans Called Genuine

The director of one of the seven agencies involved in the adoption of children from South Vietnam, testified in U.S. District Court here yesterday that all seven agencies were licensed by the South Vietnam government and all adoptions approved by the government.

Edmund Janss, director of World Vision, one of the seven agencies, said all 27 of the orphans brought to the United States by his agency were certified as genuine orphans.

Janss told U.S. District Judge Spencer Williams that he believed most of the 2000 children flown out of South Vietnam were genuine orphans.

He said some were whole orphans, whose parents were both dead; some half orphans whose sole living parent had signed permission for the child to be adopted; and some children who had two living parents who had placed them up for adoption.

Janss was one of several

witnesses to testify in the second day of a hearing to determine if some of the children flown to the United States were taken here against their will, and have relatives in South Vietnam willing to take them.

The court is being asked to issue a preliminary injunction to halt the adoptions until a thorough check is made to see if relatives in Vietnam wish to be reunited with them.

Lawyers in the case will make final arguments at 4 p.m. today.

5-21-75

San Francisco

5-21-75

There's profit in Vietnamese 'orphans'

By Robert Hollis

What does it cost, and who benefits, when an American family adopts a Vietnamese "orphan?"

The cost for the entire process, which can take years, can exceed \$2,000 for each child, according to adoption officials here and in Colorado. The latter state is the home of two of the largest international adoption agencies.

But it is becoming increasingly evident that someone — no one is yet sure who — is making a profit off some of the 2,700 Vietnamese children who were airlifted under "Operation Babylift," during the dying days of the Saigon regime.

And one agency, Friends of the Children of Vietnam, is under investigation by Colorado officials, it was learned.

The investigation, under the direction of the Colorado Social Services agency, stems from dozens of complaints by persons involved in the massive volunteer effort in Denver that aided FCVN.

"Each day the complaints grow," said Rick Wedgel, a staff member of Colorado Governor Richard D. Lamm's ombudsman's office.

They range from bills sent by adoption agencies that are not itemized (as high as \$800) to foster parents who discover they are not legal guardians after they've cared for a child for weeks, he said.

There appears to be little official interest in allegations of adoption irregularities in California, despite the fact that more than 1,100 "orphans" were processed through the San Francisco

Presidio alone.

Testimony at a federal court hearing here on Monday revealed that only the Immigration and Naturalization Service is making any attempt to find out the true identities of the Vietnamese children.

No federal agency, however, is looking into the financial dealings of the seven

international adoption agencies that sponsored all of the "orphans" that were airlifted to the United States during April.

U.S. District Judge Spencer Williams is expected to rule today on a request for a preliminary injunction filed by a Vietnamese woman asking that all adoption proceedings involving Vietnamese refugee children be

stopped until the alleged non-orphans can be weeded out.

Mort Cohen, the Berkeley attorney for Muoi McConnell, the San Leandro woman who filed the suit, believes that "Operation Babylift" was both politically and financially rewarding to some people.

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Mort Cohen, the Berkeley attorney for Muoi McConnell, the San Leandro woman who filed the suit, believes that "Operation Baby-lift" was both politically and financially rewarding to some people.

"The motivation seems to

be money or politics," he said yesterday outside federal court. During the hearing, he noted, a U.S. Agency for International Development official admitted that AID funds were used to help support some adoption agencies in Vietnam and paid for military flights to the U.S.

Thus, he said, many of the normal adoption costs eventually paid by parents for a

Vietnamese child were borne by the government.

Attorneys for Mrs. McConnell and the ad hoc Committee to Protect the Rights of Vietnamese Children subpoenaed officials of both FCVN and Friends For All Children the other Colorado-based adoption agency for the federal court hearing.

Neither group sent representatives, Cohen said, because their attorneys claimed the subpoenas were improperly served.



Denver Post Photo by Duane Howell
KELLY GIPE, 8, HOLDS LAST VIETNAMESE ORPHAN TO LEAVE THE CENTER
Baby was scheduled to go to Boulder. Kelly was helping at the center.

DENVER, BOULDER VIEW

Viet Orphan Airlift Praised

By HERB STOENNER
Denver Post Staff Writer

The closing of Continental Care Center Saturday from a halfway house for orphans airlifted from Vietnam marks the end of a highly complex, rumor-ridden and emotional venture into humanitarianism.

In its wake are happy adoptive parents, disgruntled adults who had hoped to adopt and were still on the waiting list and, possibly, legal questions for the future.

And from those responding to questions about the project, there has been high praise for the work of the two lay, facilitating agencies that caught the brunt of the emergency with the fall of Saigon. They had been accustomed to bringing out orphans one at a time until the mass exodus.

"We're out of business now, and we've closed shop," said an aide of Friends of Children of Vietnam in Denver. The other agency is Friends for All Children in Boulder.

The agencies said that if credit is due, it belongs to institutions and other agencies who helped and to 2,950 dedicated volunteers.

Red Cross Praise

James Williams, assistant director of American Red

children were aboard that plane, so children had to be held in Denver until more papers were reconstructed in Saigon.

Both children's agencies denied that the orphans were flown to Denver without a home to go to. At least, the homes for the children were "in process." Most of the children were on their way to homes in two or three days, the agencies said.

Williams also explained that Red Cross had a philosophical problem in entering this project. He said that the problem related to one of the Geneva Convention rulings that children in war-torn countries were to be left in the country, but Red Cross entered on an emergency basis to relieve suffering.

Miss Ava Snook, adoption consultant for the State of Colorado who was involved in the project, said that it is terribly important that records on these children exist and that they are correct because of possible future suits.

Therefore, she defended some delays in processing of children because she said that the required home visits take time.

Ms. Pat Dempsey, volunteer working in funding for Friends of All Children in Boulder, said that most of the children airlifted by her agency were under one year. She described the process briefly.

The children would be checked out physically in Vietnam, and the lists of

legal paper work. The Boulder agency lost 143 children in that crash.

Mrs. Shirley Barnes, executive director of Continental Care, provided an excellent example of community cooperation in the project. Because the center wasn't quite ready to open as a nursing home, Mrs. Barnes acquired the permission of her landlords to offer the half-furnished facilities to the children of Vietnam. There were beds but no furniture. The offer was made rent-free, and Mrs. Barnes was present daily to offer her expertise to volunteers appearing at the center. Mrs. Barnes, a former surgeon-general assistant, helped in the French evacuation of Vietnam 22 years ago.

'Definite Destinations'

Mrs. Cheryl Markson, executive director of the Denver-based Friends of Children of Vietnam, said that no other flights of orphans were involved except those appearing in news stories, and she said that most of the children landing in Denver had definite destinations, although some had processing problems and time-consuming home visit delays. Children from this agency were taken to Life Center, 5775 E. 8th Ave.

Mrs. Markson called the pressure of the airlift tremendous and the experience rewarding.

And for those not involved in the project, she alluded to large hidden costs in the airlift project . . . expanded agency staffs, employment of professional social workers to do home visits, transportation costs, housekeeping costs such as laundry and enormous long-distance phone charges involved in completing arrangements.

In a story about airlift volunteers which appeared last Thursday in the Living '75 section of The Denver Post, the affiliation of Mrs. Susan Taylor was incorrectly stated. Mrs. Taylor, a nurse and administrative officer at Life Center, represents Friends of the Children of Vietnam, not Friends for All Children in Boulder.

Ann Answers.....
Don't Even Go
For One Shot

Gemmell, Mrs. Harold Torgeson, Mrs. James H. Pearce Jr., Mrs. Bruce Paul, Mrs. James Chambers and Mrs. Samuel Longstaff Jr.
Debs are high school girls who attend the concerts of the Denver Symphony Orchestra and raise money for the symphony association.

DENVER, BOULDER VIEW

Viet Orphan Airlift Praised

By HERB STOENNER
Denver Post Staff Writer

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The agencies said that if credit is due, it belongs to institutions and other agencies who helped and to 2,950 dedicated volunteers.

Red Cross Praise

James Williams, assistant director of the Mile High Chapter of American Red Cross, said he felt the two agencies had done an excellent job of arrangements—despite some complaints of mismanagement—considering the circumstances under which they were forced to operate.

Red Cross worked through these agencies because they had been at work in Saigon before the emergency began.

There had been reports of chaos in the baby receiving clinics (denied), nonorphans being transported (officially denied in media stories), delays in processing the children and children landing in Denver with no home to go to.

Williams said he visited the clinics to check on the purported "chaos" but couldn't substantiate the reports in view of the dedication of the volunteers. He also said that the children arrived in fairly good condition and that he saw most of their legal papers. He believes the percentage of children arriving in Denver who weren't headed for homes was very slight.

He said most of the clinic reports related to medical care, and he apologized for an oversight in not mentioning Children's Hospital in an earlier listing of hospitals that helped. Children's handled 20 cases. He said all hospitals in Denver offered help but not all were used.

'Unavoidable Delays'

Williams said there were some unavoidable delays as in the crash of an airlift plane in Vietnam. Legal papers for the

children were aboard that plane, so children had to be held in Denver until more papers were reconstructed in Saigon.

Both children's agencies denied that the orphans were flown to Denver without a home to go to. At least, the homes for the children were "in process." Most of the children were on their way to homes in two or three days, the agencies said.

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Miss Ava Snook, adoption consultant for the State of Colorado who was involved in the project, said that it is terribly important that records on these children exist and that they are correct because of possible future suits.

Therefore, she defended some delays in processing of children because she said that the required home visits take time.

Ms. Pat Dempsey, volunteer working in funding for Friends of All Children in Boulder, said that most of the children airlifted by her agency were under one year. She described the process briefly.

The children would be checked out physically in Vietnam, and the lists of approved adoptive families would be studied. This would take into account the preferences of the family. Generally girls, racially mixed children and younger ones were preferred.

If the adoptive family approved, an attorney in Vietnam would adopt the child, and an attorney in the United States would adopt the child for the family. The family would pay all attorney fees and transport charges.

Ms. Dempsey said that all their agency's children had destinations, even those who were being moved to foreign countries.

Hospital Step

She said that on arrival in Denver their children would go to the Continental Care Center, 2201 Downing St., for examination and processing, and if medical problems were found, the children would be moved directly to the hospitals. On behalf of her agency, she thanked the many Denver pediatricians who volunteered their services.

She said that one flight of children on the way to Italy had been recalled to Denver because some doubts had arisen that these children might end up in orphanages instead of homes because of the economic conditions. After the family placements were confirmed, the flight resumed.

She said that the whole staff of Friends for All Children flew to the West Coast after the plane crash to help with the

legal paper work. The Boulder agency lost 143 children in that crash.

Mrs. Shirley Barnes, executive director of Continental Care, provided an excellent example of community cooperation in the project. Because the center wasn't quite ready to open as a nursing home, Mrs. Barnes acquired the permission of her landlords to offer the half-furnished facilities to the children of Vietnam. There were beds but no furniture. The offer was made rent-free, and Mrs. Barnes was present daily to offer her expertise to volunteers appearing at the center. Mrs. Barnes, a former surgeon-general assistant, helped in the French evacuation of Vietnam 22 years ago.

'Definite Destinations'

Mrs. Cheryl Markson, executive director of the Denver-based Friends of Children of Vietnam, said that no other flights of orphans were involved except those appearing in news stories, and she said that most of the children landing in Denver had definite destinations, although some had processing problems and time-consuming home visit delays. Children from this agency were taken to Life Center, 5775 E. 8th Ave.

Mrs. Markson called the pressure of the airlift tremendous and the experience rewarding.

And for those not involved in the project, she alluded to large hidden costs in the airlift project . . . expanded agency staffs, employment of professional social workers to do home visits, transportation costs, housekeeping costs such as laundry and enormous long-distance phone charges involved in completing arrangements.

In a story about airlift volunteers which appeared last Thursday in the Living '75 section of The Denver Post, the affiliation of Mrs. Susan Taylor was incorrectly stated. Mrs. Taylor, a nurse and administrative officer at Life Center, represents Friends of the Children of Vietnam, not Friends for All Children in Boulder.

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Volunteers Exhausted,

By HERB STOENNER
Denver Post Staff Writer

They're all "dead tired"—the 2,950 volunteers in the Denver area who have been working the last six weeks to help resettle homeless Vietnam children, according to the Mile High American Red Cross office.

Many volunteers hold full-time jobs, but have been called at any hour of the night when notified that babies were on planes coming to Denver, often at 4 a.m.

Mrs. Martha Chapman on the staff of the Mile High chapter said, "It was such a wonderful experience, I'm sure we'd all do it all over again," she said. "I hope to get some sleep this weekend."

For Red Cross the project meant a logistics crunch on an emergency basis.

James William, assistant manager of the chapter, explained that the chapter had 12 hours notice to set up three receiving areas for babies, acquire medical supplies, blankets and disposable diapers (for them) and arrange for volunteers that the babies never would see.

But Viet Baby Work Worth It

And more recently, the project became more complicated because the tornado in Omaha, Neb., also required Red Cross attention.

What is the worth of a volunteer?

William put it this way at a small conference of project leaders.

The cash cost of the resettling project runs to about \$9,000 which International Red Cross will pay. But, he said that volunteers in the Denver area alone put in 35,000 hours and if this time were figured at the minimum wage, the cost of the project would be about \$110,000.

Mrs. Chapman gauged the value of a volunteer another way: "If you're a frightened child in need of a home and are half way around the world from home, the volunteer offers you security—a shoulder where you can put your head," she said.

She said that volunteers found that they had to hold the children sometimes four or six hours between planes, if Denver weren't the final destination (some were on their way to Italy, other places in Europe or New York).

Mrs. Chapman said this delighted the volunteers, but the hard part was to give them up after four hours because you

learned to love them quickly with their "big, dark eyes."

"Instant motherhood, I like it," said one woman in the military services.

And, some young men from Lowry Air Force Base who had never changed a diaper enjoyed holding the babies after how-to-do-it briefings.

Mrs. Chapman said that the most exciting part of the whole project was the tremendous cooperation and dedication of the volunteers.

Volunteer Help

Among them she listed personnel of the airlines, Stapleton International Airport, Fitzsimons Army Medical Center, Lowry Denver Police Department, adoption

agencies and their volunteers, the receiving clinics, and Red Cross volunteers.

Mrs. Susan Taylor, a pediatrics nurse and also allied with Friends of Children of Vietnam, said that the children arrived mostly in good condition and without serious problems, although many had colds.

James Hudson of the Red Cross staff said that some 3,000 children had been processed in the United States and of these Denver received 600. Denver received more than most cities, apparently because two Vietnam children's agencies are headquartered in Denver and Boulder.

Sgt. Donald Lindsey of Fitzsimons also

participated in the conference. He and Hudson shared many of the operational details.

Together they recalled unusual happenings in the baby project and they laughed heartily at some through their weariness. Here are a few:

—A Fitzsimons van ready to move babies broke down in the middle of the night at Stapleton Airport for lack of a fan belt. It was decided that a pair of pantyhose would ease the emergency. A prowler of the airport concourses began and a military woman supplied the pantyhose. The babies were delivered to their destinations and the mission was accomplished. The WAC was also paid for her loss.

—A volunteer worked at her job in the daytime and on the baby project at night and refused to give up. She fainted twice at Stapleton from fatigue. (It should be mentioned that a number of volunteers were paying baby sitters \$8 a day so that they could be free to work on the baby project).

—Sgt. Lindsey's 13-year-old daughter threatened to lock him out of the house unless he brought home one of these babies for their family.

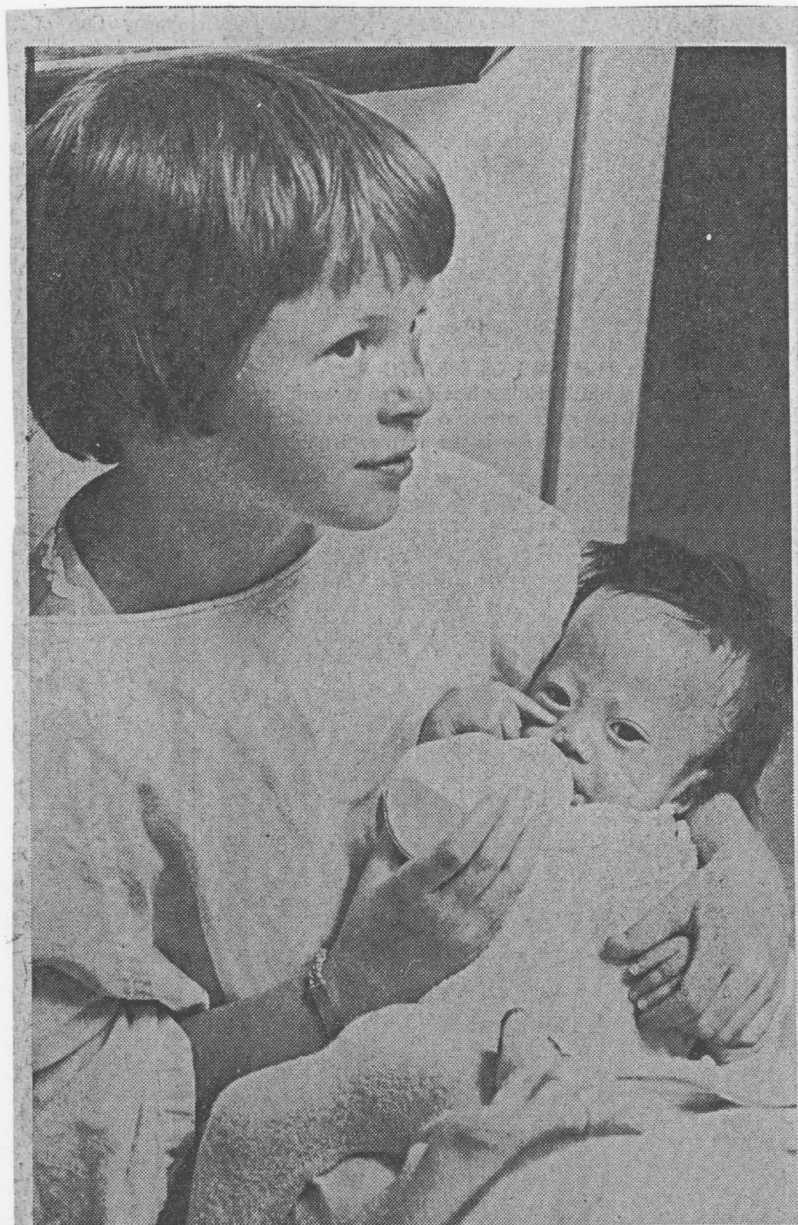
—There was a flap among

volunteers at one time over the apparent disappearance of a twin baby at the airport despite the tight security accompanying the project. The missing twin had been moved inadvertently to one of the clinics.

(Security was strict because of an incident in San Francisco when a woman used two blankets and concealed a second baby in one of them. Escorts and those meeting the babies had to be identified in

advance. Hudson, who met every plane bringing babies to Denver, said he was barred at one flight because he hadn't been properly identified in advance).

—One of the best volunteers at Fitzsimons was a Vietnamese male student who, in addition to being generous with his time, had an inordinate ability to calm frightened children because he spoke their language.



Denver Post Photo by Duane Howell
KELLY GIPE, 8, HOLDS LAST VIETNAMESE ORPHAN TO LEAVE THE CENTER
Baby was scheduled to go to Boulder. Kelly was helping at the center.

