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Few Vietnam Orphans Eligible to Come to U.S.

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, April 4—There are 25,000 orphans in institutions in South Vietnam at the moment. Untold thousands more are cared for by Vietnamese families. Only about 1,500 are eligible to emigrate to the United States.

To qualify an orphan must be under 9 years of age and in the care of one of seven American-licensed institutions here—Holt Children's Services, International Social Services, Friends for All Children, Friends of the Children of Vietnam, Catholic Relief Services, the Pearl Buck Foundation and World Vision.

Virtually all of the 1,500 have been spoken for by families in the United States, which will claim them as soon as they are delivered. The orphans will be issued immediate residence visas and will eventually hold citizenship.

Other Vietnamese, apart from those with husbands or close relatives in the United States, do not have such privileges.