

SFChronicle
**New Flight
Of Orphans
Set Today**

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Saigon

More than 300 Indochina orphans are scheduled to leave Saigon and Phnom Penh today for homes in the United States thanks in part to an American woman who vowed: "I am not going to let the Communists have these children."

The woman, Betty Tisdale of Columbus, Ga., told newsmen in Saigon yesterday that Deputy Premier Phan Quang Dan gave permission for two planeloads of Vietnamese children to be flown to the U.S. West Coast.

Mrs. Tisdale, who arrived Tuesday to empty the An Lac orphanage in Saigon of its nearly 400 residents, called Dan "one of the most compassionate men I ever have met in such a high position."

Mrs. Tisdale is the wife of a retired U.S. Army pediatrician and has a wide circle of influential friends in Saigon and in Washington.

She said the U.S. Air Force will fly two C-141 cargo planes with 219 children from An Lac orphanage, plus 38 other children from the Friends of the Children of Vietnam who were previously approved but too ill to leave in earlier flights.

The mass evacuation of orphans from Saigon officially ended Monday as the last of about 1700 youngsters headed to the United States. However, South Vietnamese officials said other orphans would be allowed to leave in smaller groups.

Associated Press