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Planeload of Vietnamese Orphans on Way to U.S.

By The Associated Press

TOKYO, Thursday, April 3— A plane carrying 57 orphaned Vietnamese children to new homes in the United States left Saigon without official clearance and reached Japan early today on the first stage of the 8,000-mile flight.

The children, ranging up in age from three months, and most already spoken for by adoptive parents, were loaded onto a World Airways DC-8 jet plane in almost total darkness last night because Tan Son Nhut Airport in Saigon was on full alert.

[Adoption agencies in the United States involved with Vietnamese orphans are being swamped with telephone calls from Americans eager to care for the children. Page 32.]

The orphans traveled on the blanketed cabin floor of the cargo plane, each with a pillow. Some were chattering with excitement in Vietnamese.

A few minutes after the children had been put aboard a stewardess called from the rear of the cabin, "Any Pampers? It's diaper-service time already for this one."

Edward J. Daly, the president

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Orphans from South Vietnam aboard World Airways DC-8 that left Saigon with them last night. They are shown as the jet stopped to refuel in Japan on way to the U.S.

Airline Bringing 57 Orphans To U.S. From South Vietnam

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of World Airways, a charter airline, went to lend a hand with diapering—something he said he had not done in 25 years.

As the jet plane prepared to take off for the 25-hour flight to Oakland, Calif., by way of Tokyo, the airport was closed down because a Vietcong attack was feared, and all non-military people were ordered off the base.

The pilot, Ken Bealy, said he was told by the Tan Son Nhut Airport tower: "Don't take off. Don't take off. You have no clearance."

Mr. Healy, 52 years old, who flew refugees out of China in the late nineteen forty's and made the chaotic last flight out of Da Nang last week put the plane into the air anyway.

"I just didn't get the message in time," he said later with a smile. Mr. Healey is from San Leandro, Calif.

Doctors on Plane

The children rolled on their backs as the plane took off. About 20 adult passengers, including two physicians, watched over them during the flight.

There was no crying on the trip to Yokota Air Base, a big United States installation on Tokyo's western outskirts, where the jet was refueled. Most of the children slept most of the way. But at Yokota some scrambled to the windows to look at the lights.

Plans by World Airways to airlift 500 more children from Saigon fell through yesterday. Mr. Daly said that the South Vietnamese Government had given its approval for flying out the 500 orphans but that the United States Embassy had caused a children's agency to cancel its plans for the flight by charging that his plane was not safe.

Mr. Daly said Tuesday night he would fly up to 1,500 orphan children to the United States and Australia in two planes. However, the flight to Australia was canceled after Mr. Daly said the Australian Government refused to give permission for the plane to land. He later revised downward the number of children to be flown to the United States.

A spokesman for the United States Embassy denied that the embassy had blocked the departure of the 500 babies, saying that Friends for All Children, a charitable organization helping Americans adopt chil-

dren, had made the decision.

After being prevented from flying the 500 babies out, Mr. Daly and his associates canvassed other organizations and gathered together 57 infants. Most came from orphanages run by the Seventh Day Adventists and World Vision.

Mr. Daly, who said he was paying for the \$70,000 journey from Saigon to California with his own money, had loaded milk, soft drinks, baby food and paper diapers aboard his cargo plane. Pallets were laid across the floor, covered with blankets and pillows for the small passengers.

From Tokyo the plane was to go on to Honolulu and Oakland.

Daly Began With One Plane

OAKLAND, Calif., April 2 (AP)—Edward J. Daly was a World War II Air Corps sergeant who bought a surplus plane after the war and built up what is now called the world's largest charter operation.

Now the millionaire president of World Airways, he hoped to rescue 1,500 Vietnamese orphans, but was able to take only 57 children out in his DC-8 jet.

Mr. Daly, who was born in Chicago in 1922, was a semi-professional boxer in his younger days. He lives in Orinda, an Oakland suburb, where he has a luxurious estate and where his air freight and charter service has its headquarters.

"He really is an interesting humanitarian," said one friend of Mr. Daly. "That kind of wealth is hard to understand unless you have it.

"He doesn't like to publicize what he does," said the friend. "I wouldn't call him modest or shy, but he's not boastful. He's gregarious, an outgoing, good party guy who will gather up a planeload of friends and fly off to Europe for a weekend."

Mr. Daly also gathers up 1,000 children each Christmas and sends them to the Oakland Symphony to hear the "Nutcracker Suite." And when he heard that a home for young county wards of the court did not have swimming facilities, he built them a swimming pool.

Mr. Daly's wealth is estimated at up to \$500-million. World Airways reported 1974 revenues of \$112.2-million. Mr. Daly owns 80.5 per cent of World Airways and large percentages of several subsidiaries.