

## Theology Professors

# Viet Orphan Airlift Denounced

Six local professors of theology denounced yesterday the American airlift of orphaned Vietnamese children.

In a statement the professors conceded the "good intentions" of the airlift, but argued that it was "immoral."

They cited reasons that some of the children may not in fact be orphans but simply separated from their parents, that a Communist-held South Vietnam will take care of its orphans, and that "the chil-

ren would be happier growing up in Vietnam with Vietnamese, rather than in America with Caucasians.

"The only reason for bringing the children here is to salve our conscience," the statement said. "And children should not be used that way."

The statement was signed by Mark Juergensmeyer of the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley; Robert McAfee Brown, Stanford University; John Coleman, Jesuit School of Theology, Berkeley; and Charles

McCoy, John Bennett Davie Napier of the Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley.

In a separate statement issued by an official of the Berkeley-based International Children's Fund, the airlift was characterized as harmful to the orphans.

Tran Tuong Nu said it would be better if the youngsters were left behind for eventual reabsorption into whatever society emerges at the end of the war.

She said that both the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong give a high priori-

ty to the orphan problem and are qualified to handle it if given international assistance.

Miss Nhu maintained that there has been considerable exaggeration of the numbers of children orphaned by the war. Many youngsters have single parents surviving who placed them in orphanages because they don't have the money to support them.

But these parents, according to Miss Nhu, had hoped to be reunited with their offspring when the fighting ceases.