

## New Homes

# The Presidio's Nursery Is Empty

By Carolyn Anspacher

The big makeshift nursery at the Presidio stood empty yesterday as all the more than 50 Vietnamese orphans who had been safely airlifted here from Saigon Wednesday night were quietly dispersed to their adoptive American homes.

Wayne Eisenhart, chief spokesman for the orphan reception operation here, said the transfer of the children to their new homes was undertaken almost secretly "to protect the privacy of adoptive families and to keep them from being bothered by the press."

So far as is known, none of the children remained in the Bay Area.

Meanwhile, Pan American World Airway officials here confirmed that a regularly scheduled jetliner carrying between 14 and 30 Vietnamese orphans and their escorts is scheduled to arrive at San Francisco International Airport at 7 a.m. today.

The Boeing 747 left Saigon Wednesday and was grounded for a day in Guam when mechanical problems developed.

Pan American's Bill Marsh said attempts to get an accurate account of how many refugee Vietnamese children and their escorts are aboard have been futile.

"The adoption agencies have been very protective and secretive about where the kids are headed and who their new American parents are," Marsh said. "And we haven't heard anything from Saigon or Guam except flight confirmation, so it's been difficult to tell."

It was also learned yesterday that another Pan American plane, this one carrying about 400 Vietnamese orphans and 50 adult attendants is scheduled to land in Seattle from Saigon before midnight tonight.

Airline spokesmen in Washington said the exact arrival time was being temporarily withheld "for security reasons."

They said the charter was arranged by the Holt International Children's Services of Eugene, Ore.

"A lot of the babies are small and probably will be traveling in bassinets," a Pan Am spokesman said. "We're still getting the makeup of the group, but some of them are infants

and some are 3, 4, and 5 years old."

Shortly after yesterday's crash, two Australian Air Force transports took off with a total 230 children. They flew to Bangkok, where a jumbo jet chartered by the Australian government waited to fly them on to Australia.

Forty-seven more children, including 35 Cambodian infants from Canada House in Phnom Penh, left by commercial airliner for Canada, and about 100 babies have left on commercial flights in the past two days, including 55 aboard a cargo flight on Wednesday.

Army spokesmen at the Presidio said its receiving nursery will remain set up to receive hundreds and perhaps thousands more Vietnamese orphans.

"We don't know when they're coming, nor how many are coming, but we believe the plans are going ahead to fly out about 2000 children," the official said.

James Michael Hoffman, director of the United States Catholic Conference Migration and Refugee Service here said that all, or virtually all of these children already have been matched with American parents.

Additionally, he said, thousands of other couples have applied to adopt Vietnamese orphans with the Catholic conference alone.

Mary Sullivan, chief of California's adoption services, a branch of the state health department, said the state has mobilized its own adoption staff along with the network of public and private services.

She said the service's telephones have been jammed and noted that the office will remain open this weekend.

Hoffman said that tremendous expenses are being incurred by agencies involved in the care and maintenance of the Vietnamese children. He asked those anxious to help to send contributions either to the Catholic Conference Migration and Refugee Services, 201 Park avenue, south, New York 10003; to Friends for All Children of Vietnam, Harmon Hall, Building 913, The Presidio, San Francisco, 94129, and to the American Red Cross, 1625 Van Ness avenue, San Francisco, 94109.