

Airlift of Orphans to Continue

By Ronald Kessler

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Government and private officials expressed determination yesterday to continue an airlift of homeless Vietnamese children despite the Saigon crash of the first official flight in the program.

The program, a cooperative effort of private adoption agencies and the U.S. government, calls for airlifting at least 2,000 Vietnamese orphans to the United States within the next several days and placing them in American homes.

A second major airlift with some 400 orphans is scheduled to arrive today in Seattle on a Pan American World Airways flight.

Yesterday's crash shortly after takeoff of a U.S. Air Force C5 Galaxy transport carrying 305 persons, including 243 children, killed more than half of the youngsters and more than 40 adults.

A spokesman for Holt International Children's Service, which chartered the Pan American flight, said all the children have been assigned or are about to be assigned by the private adoption agency to American parents.

Meanwhile, adoption agencies throughout the country reported a sharp increase in American requests for Vietnamese orphans.

"Every time I pick up the phone, there's somebody on it wanting to know if they can adopt an orphan," said Deanna Carnie, assistant di-

rector of Friends for All Children, a group participating in the airlift.

"The attitude seems to be, 'Oh my God, these poor children. Somebody has to take care of them,'" said Louise Cooper of the Miami Catholic Service Bureau.

The Agency for International Development, the government agency coordinating the airlift, established a toll-free telephone number to be called by those interested in adopting the children.

Almost immediately, AID said, callers had tied up the entire East Coast toll-free facilities of the telephone company. The agency asked those interested in adopting orphans to call local adoption and welfare agencies. It said other inquiries may be made on a new toll-free number — 800 368-1180. Washington-area residents should call 632-9800.

As adoption officials expressed shock and dismay at the news of the crash yesterday, some Americans were the happy recipients of Vietnamese children trickling into the United States on small airlifts.

"I love the world. She's precious, and she's mine," said Adele Kolinsky as she hugged her bewildered, new, 3-year-old daughter at La Guardia Airport. "She just as pretty as I thought she

would be," she said of the girl, Nguyen Thi My Huong.

Mrs. Kolinsky, who works with retarded children, and her husband, a druggist, already have three sons.

"I'm not adopting the kids out of sympathy," said Dave Johnson, an ex-Marine who fought in Vietnam. "They need a home and we need kids. Its as simple as that," Johnson said, as he handed out cigars to his neighbors in Denver to celebrate the arrival of three Vietnamese brothers.

"We have two other children and felt like we should adopt an orphan instead of having another child of our own," said Mrs. Tom Pope of Calhoun, Ga., as she beamed at her new, 1 year-old daughter.

"I don't believe it," Linda Moritz said, blinking away tears. "We moved our two daughter into one room, and got them bunk beds. We've got a room all ready for Thomas," said Mrs. Moritz, who lives in Loveland, Colo.

Some of the children came scarred and scared. A stewardess on a plane that brought 14 orphans to Atlanta said the oldest child, a boy of 10, had been frightened by the plane's flashing lights.

"He indicated he thought it was the glare of the fire from bomb explosions," the stewardess said.

Two of the expectant parents, actor Yul Brynner and his wife, Jacqueline, said their adopted child may have been on the plane that crashed outside Saigon.

"Yul and I are very concerned about our child," Mrs. Brynner said. "Like thousands of other Americans, we are awaiting word of any kind."

Airlift of Orphans Called 'Trickery'

Reuter

LONDON, April 4—The North Vietnam charge d'affaires in London, Lai Van Ngoc, said today that airlifts of orphans from South Vietnam were acts of "sabotage, trickery and hypocrisy."

He told a reporter: "It is unhumanitarian to uproot these children from their homeland."

The war orphans were one of many social problems which the Vietcong were trying to solve, he said. "We do not believe that it is solved by taking them out of the country . . . Some children are being taken to the United States. When they get to [the age of] 10 they will begin playing cowboys and gangsters. We do not want to see this.