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JEFREY MATHEWS' 20-MONTH WAIT IS HAPPILY OVER
He met his new sister, Julie Rene, at S.F. airport last night

—UPI Photo

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Months of frustration and two days of fear

By K. Connie Kang

Walt and Carolyn Mathews are patient people.

He's a high school teacher in Jackson, Amador County. And she's a new mother with a six-month-old French-Vietnamese baby.

The Mathews, and their son Jeffrey, 5, have been waiting 20 months in frustration and two days in fear.

The 20 months was the time it took to adopt tiny Julie Rene. The two days of fear followed when Pan Am Flight 842 failed to appear because of engine trouble in

Guam, and again in Honolulu.

Julie Rene was one of 18 Vietnamese children — all between the ages of six months and two years — aboard the plane. There were also 13 adults to attend the babies, and a plane-load of commercial passengers.

"She's finally here, she's finally here," Carolyn Mathews said softly, near tears.

Six other families were united last night with their new babies from overseas.

The rest of the children,

all of whom will go to other parts of the United States, were taken to the Presidio to rest before being sent to their new homes.

They seemed healthy, and already happy.

Tom Moser, the Vietnam director of AID said, "They gave us no trouble at all."

In the crowded Pan Am waiting room at San Francisco International to receive the babies were representatives from the Holt Adoption Agency, Friends of Vietnam Children, Friends of All Children, and several hundred greeters.