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Orphan Airlift Resumes

From News Dispatches

SAIGON, April 5 — Nearly 1,000 South Vietnamese orphans were flown out of Saigon Saturday to their adoptive parents in the United States. Among them were 100 orphans who survived the crash Friday of a giant U.S. Air Force C-5 in which nearly 200 persons were killed.

Two chartered jumbo jets and three U.S. Air Force C-141 military cargo planes took off from Tansonnhut airport Saturday carrying 890 Vietnamese children, aged three months to nine years.

Officials said the Vietnamese government had approved the departure of 1,400 orphans, about 25 per cent of them the children of American GIs. This leaves about 400 yet to go. Another 263 orphans were flown to Australia and Canada.

The loading of lively infants and children onto the planes Saturday contrasted with the grim crash scene 1½ miles away from the airport where the first orphan airlift plane crashed Friday.

The C-5 Galaxy cargo plane, the world's largest aircraft, carried at least 319 persons, including 243 children. According to some members of the team that organized the airlift, the aircraft was also carrying a number of stowaway adults and children.

U.S. embassy officials refused to release precise casualty figures, pending the results of an investigation and notification of next of kin. The crash toll of 200 persons made it the worst

accident in U.S. aviation history. Investigators found three more bodies at the crash site Saturday.

U.S. officials said there was no indication of sabotage. The plane had plunged into a rice paddy, broken into three pieces and burst into flames a mile from the runway, officials said, as it had tried to make an emergency landing at Tansonnhut airfield.

The plane had reached an altitude of 23,000 feet 40 miles from Saigon when two rear doors blew off the plane. The air pressure inside dropped instantly and this apparently set up a suction effect that swept an emergency side door back through the plane and out into the tail, damaging the hydraulic controls. The pilot, Capt. Dennis Traynor, turned the plane back toward Saigon but could not control the plane for an emergency landing.

A Pentagon spokesman said Traynor gave "a remarkable demonstration of flying skill" by crash-landing so that almost half the passengers survived.

The first flight out Saturday, an Air Force C-141 cargo transport, carried 31 children to Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines where officials said would spend the night before flying on to California to be greeted by President Ford on Sunday.

A Pan American Boeing 747 loaded with 409 children and 60 escorts followed the C-141 flight. It was chartered by the Holt Children's

Service, a major adoption agency in Saigon.

Other flights carried adoptive children from the Friends of All Children, the agency which had provided most of the orphans in the downed aircraft, and the Catholic Relief Service.

One of the C-141 flights carried 116 American dependents and defense contract workers, according to embassy officials. The embassy said the flight was not a mass evacuation, but Edward F. Veiluva, 51, of Oklahoma City, said on arrival at Clark Air Base in the Philippines that the U.S. defense attache had given his group five days to leave the country.

American passengers had also been booked on a West German-chartered Lufthansa DC-10 airliner bound for Bangkok, said a Foreign Ministry spokesman in Bonn, but the Americans had not been processed in time by Saigon authorities to board the plane.