

VIETNAM CHILDREN IN STOPOVER HERE

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20 of 21 Will Go On to Homes
in England and France

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By DEIRD CARMODY

Twenty-one Vietnams children arrived here from San Francisco yesterday, but for all but one it was just another temporary stop on the long, wearing journey from Vietnam to new homes.

Twenty of the children, most of whom were babies or very young, will eventually go to homes in England and France. Until the final paperwork for their adoptions is completed, however, they will stay with foster parents here.

Most of the foster parents who gathered at Kennedy International Airport from yesterday afternoon to meet the United and American Airlines flights did not even know the names or ages of the children they had come to meet. Many of the families were from Deer Park, L. I., and had come in response to appeals from the Long Island Friends of Children in Vietnam.

Lorna and Edward Stevens of 420 East 23d Street had come to the airport with Elizabeth, who is almost 3, and Sheila, who is 4. The girls are Vietnamese and were adopted when they were each less than a year old by Mr. and Mrs. Stevens.

'Elitism and Racism'

As the girls licked lollipops and skipped about the airport lounge, Mr. Stevens spoke wryly about the charges by some people here and in Vietnam that the evacuation of children smacked of "elitism and racism."

"All this worry about acculturation is nonsense," Mr. Stev-

ens said. "Maybe it's a problem when they're 16, but not for babies. The alternative is leaving them in an orphanage that our country has been supporting and then having that support withdrawn. Elizabeth They will rename him Nicholas spent her first month here in the hospital with a respiratory problem and if she had been left in Vietnam she would not have survived."

For Michael and Barbara Le Duc of Framingham, Mass., it

was a highly emotional moment. They have been trying for more than a year and a half to adopt a Vietnamese boy named Tranh Can Loc. David.

They were told a few days ago that he was one of the survivors of the C-5A that crashed in Vietnam Friday, killing more than 100 children. At 8:30 A.M. yesterday they received a call that the 3-year-old boy would arrive in New York in the afternoon.

When the doors opened and a procession of volunteers came out of the plane holding the wide-eyed children, Mr. and Mrs. Le Duc recognized their little boy at once.

"I was hoping it was him because he's such a good-looking boy," said Mr. Le Duc, who is a printer, looking at the frail child. "He has a weak heart, but if his heart hasn't given out from all of this, he's going to be all right."



The New York Times/William E. Saurer

Barbara Le Duc of Framingham, Mass., with Tranh Can Loc, a survivor of C-5A crash, Friday, at Kennedy Airport. The 3-year-old boy will be renamed Nicholas David.