

NYTimes

The Misused Children

To the Editor:

"I thought he had tears in his eyes," said Dr. Fred Stark of President Ford as the President carried two Vietnamese babies from the plane that had brought them to San Francisco (news story April 7).

He might well have had tears in his eyes—so might we all, at the spectacle of these orphaned babies and children



hustled out of their country to be scattered around the United States like so many Easter chicks. How can this possibly be a kindness to children frightened, hurt, desperate for the security of the familiar? What panicky notions impelled the Americans in Vietnam to push children helter-skelter onto planes to be shipped to the country that has been most responsible for the fact that they are orphans?

One dreadful answer to these questions has perhaps been given by Ambassador Martin in Saigon, who was quoted by Dr. Phan Quang Dan as saying that the massive evacuation of children "will help create a shift in

APR 15 1975

American public opinion in favor" of the South Vietnamese regime. Not even Easter chicks are so misused.

CAROL BERNSTEIN FERRY
Scarsdale, N. Y., April 7, 1975

To the Editor:

For the last several days, I have watched with considerable sadness the culminating effects of this last Far East campaign. As a parent, I empathize with the effects of this war upon its children. However, my ambivalence about the airlift campaign reinforces my feelings that we are metaphorically dealing with survivors' guilt. We are on the one hand expending large sums of money to service needy children from Vietnam and, on the other hand, equally and with the same fervor, denying the same concern for our own children in need; particularly the urban minority groups and rural poor.

Large sums of money can be raised by relief organizations within a period of several days, but the children in our own ghettos and Appalachias throughout our own country have been denied and still do not have their basic needs met.

It is time to reorder our priorities, for our own children are in need.

ROBERT SCHAER
Freehold, N. J., April 8, 1975

The Sin of Congress

To the Editor:

The sin of Congress (more than a fault) has not been in cutting off military aid to Indochina but in voting it for so many years, even after the fraudulent basis of the Gulf of Tonkin resolution was exposed. I hope Congress, supported by the American people, will be as generous in providing funds to repair the ravaged countries as it was in furnishing funds for all the tools of war.

ALICE ALEXANDER
New Rochelle, N. Y., April 8, 1975