

## Young Vietnamese Airlift to Resume

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WASHINGTON, April 17—An official of the Immigration and Naturalization Service said today that the airlift of children from South Vietnam, which had been halted, would resume in a day or two and that no evidence of any illegality had been found in their evacuation.

James F. Greene, deputy commissioner of the service, said at a news briefing at the Justice Department that the airlift had been temporarily halted because it had been difficult to identify the Vietnamese children who had been up for adoption by Americans and therefore were a part of the quota of 2,000 that the service had agreed to admit into the country.

He also said that 1,650 Vietnamese children had entered the country and that the agency had also stopped the flights to make sure that the 2,000 quota was not exceeded.

Asked what difference it would make if a few hundred more children were allowed into the United States for humanitarian reasons, Mr. Greene replied: "There is a way to do it and we ought to do it that way."

Mr. Greene said, however, that there might have been some irregularities about the way 28 Cambodian children,

now in the Washington area, had been brought into the country. He said that there had been a "breakdown" in communications and the procedures under which the children had been picked up in Cambodia and flown here.

The service, he said, is investigating whether the Cambodian children have entered the country legally. There is some

question as to whether the parents of these children are dead, he said, adding that "we are working with state adoption authorities to point out there is a cloud over these children."

However, there are no plans to send the children back to Cambodia, "even if that were possible," Mr. Greene said. He said that the interest of the children would be "paramount" in determining now the issue would be resolved. The children he added, are being cared for in foster homes and will remain there until their status is determined.

Once the immigration status of the Cambodian children was established, it would be up to the state authorities to determine whether they were eligible for adoption, Mr. Greene said. He said that, if necessary, the children could remain here indefinitely as aliens.

Initial talks with the children indicated that some of them

believed they had been sent to the United States to learn English, Mr. Greene reported.

He said, however, that there were no indications of any illegal activity involving the evacuation of children from Vietnam. Asked about reports that some of the Vietnamese children were the offspring of officials in Saigon who had made bribes to evacuate the children to safety, he said that he had no evidence that would confirm such reports.

The official said that the immigration service had nearly completed contingency plans to process masses of refugees from South Vietnam coming into the United States, although he added that no decision had been reached about how many would be evacuated. He said that it was likely a military base on the West Coast would be used as a processing center.