

# The Couple Who Returned

## Miami

A childless, middle-aged couple who had tried for years to adopt a baby, gave up a healthy 14-month-old Vietnamese orphan they thought was seriously ill.

Doctors say the child is fine.

The would-be parents, Renee and Emma Rodriguez, will never see the baby again. Nguyen Van Taih has been given to Dr. and Mrs. Howard Wexler.

The Rodriguezes, who had waited three years for approval of their application to adopt an American baby, jumped at the chance when officials asked two weeks ago if they would consider a war orphan.

Nguyen Van Thai arrived in Miami from Vietnam Sunday and was showered with gifts and attention from the Rodriguezes and their neighbors.

Then, the couple noticed

two lumps behind the baby's ears. Speculation by neighbors and the family doctor that the lumps might be cancerous and the baby might soon die resulted in the couple surrendering the child on Tuesday.

Doctors at Variety Children's Hospital said the baby's lumps were only abscesses, which can be easily cured.

## a Viet War Orphan

"The condition of the baby is good," said Dr. William T. Brown, chief of surgery at the hospital. "One of the abscesses has already been lanced and opened. The child is fine."

"It's criminal what's happened," Rodriguez said yesterday. "We waited for years to realize the dream of a child, and now it's turned out to be a night-

mare."

"Suppose that we had kept the baby and he had died," said Rodriguez. "My wife would have lost her mind."

The baby went home yesterday with his new parents, who have another child.

"We're very thankful," said Dr. Wexler, a radiologist. "We've been praying to God for a baby. We had

hoped this would happen for some time."

Mrs. Rodriguez, who has been under sedation since giving back the child said, "I wanted the baby, but I didn't want to fall in love with him and then have him die," she said. "I want a baby that is perfectly normal. For such a baby, I can provide a beautiful home."

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