

Montagnard Kids Head for Denmark

Clark Air Base,
The Philippines

Two hundred forty Montagnard children were on their way to Denmark last night in what was described by the flight organizers as an attempt to save their tribes from likely extinction.

They were the first Montagnards to be evacuated from Vietnam in the current mass airlift of orphans and refugees. The children, mainly 9 to 12 years old, were flown out of Tan Son Nhut Airport in a World Airways 272 in an airlift personally organized by the airline's swashbuckling president, Ed Daly.

The children underwent medical checks at Clark Air Base before continuing to Guam. The group was accompanied by a young German, Henning Becker, who ran a school for the or-

phaned children in Bao Loc near Da Lat. When the town came under Communist fire five weeks ago, the children fled to Saigon.

Becker said the children belong to the Mine and Stien tribes, "and we believe their number has been whittled down from 10,000 to a mere 500, in the course of the war."

The minister for ethnic minorities in Saigon, Nay Luett, had pleaded for evacuation to save the tribes from extinction.

The destination of the 240 is the civil defense barracks in Fodborg, South Jutland.

"We hope to bring them back in six months when the situation stabilizes," says Becker. But then he added, "I think they'll be in Denmark a long time."

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