

Judge Won't Halt Viet Adoption

A San Francisco federal judge denied a temporary restraining order yesterday that would have halted adoptions of children being flown to the United States from Vietnam until it could be determined if they were true orphans without parents or relatives.

U.S. District Judge Spencer Williams did, however, set May 12 for a full hearing on the matter and to consider whether to issue a preliminary injunction against the adoptions.

Williams denied the restraining order yesterday after a volunteer for the Pearl Buck Foundation testified that that organization has brought 31 Vietnamese orphans to the West Coast and had made a thorough study of each case.

Margaret Ford, who said she has worked for the foundation for three years, said all the 31 children had been verified as genuine orphans to the best of the foundation's ability.

"No child was sent out (of Vietnam) without a portfolio

of papers," Mrs. Ford said.

She said each child was accompanied by a picture and a name band on the child's arm. She said adoptive parents, who had been thoroughly screened, were waiting for each child.

Williams acted in a case in which a Vietnamese nurse brought suit to hold up all adoptions until a "neutral international organization" searches the records to determine if parents or other relatives are alive and if the children should be returned to Vietnam.

The nurse, Muoi McConnell, charged that many of the orphans actually have families in Vietnam and have been abducted against their will.

Williams directed the Immigration and Naturalization Service to bring to court on May 12 whatever records it has on the orphans. He also asked the plaintiffs in the case to produce spokesman for other agencies to testify as to what checks they had made on the backgrounds of the alleged orphans.