

# Refugee Flights -- Airline Faces Fine

World Airways, which dramatically initiated the orphan airlifts from South Vietnam, may be fined \$248,000 by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service — for bringing 248 illegal aliens into the country.

INS District Director Richard L. Williams, said none of the 248 was an orphan.

World Airways also brought in 338 Vietnamese orphans but will not be fined for them, Williams said.

The possible fines arose from three flights in April, before it was apparent South

Vietnam would soon fall and before the massive civilian and military evacuation flights started, Williams said.

Federal laws make it a crime for any transportation firm to bring into this country "any alien who does not have an unexpired visa." The fine is up to \$1000 for each illegal alien brought in.

Williams said his office yesterday mailed to World Airways, based in Oakland, a "notice of intention to fine" the airline \$1000 for each of the 248 aliens concerned.

The first flight on April 2

brought six adults and 52 orphans. The immigration service is proposing fines for the adults but not for the orphans.

The second flight, on April 21, carried 207 adults and their children. Also aboard, but not the subject of fines, were 76 disabled residents, 11 adults who had initial immigration papers and two legal residents returning to America.

The last flight, on April 27, brought 35 illegal aliens and 210 children on their way to Denmark.

Williams said no legal action would be taken against the 248 refugees who were brought in illegally because the government decided several weeks ago no Vietnamese in this country would be deported to Vietnam.

Williams said World Airways is only one of three airlines being served with the "intention to fine" notices, but he could not name the other two airlines.

He said World Airways will have 30 days to respond. After that, if the airline and Immigration can not agree on the amount of the fine, World Airways may appeal the final fine decision to the Board of Immigration Appeals in Washington, D.C.

A World Airways spokesman last night said he would have nothing to say until the company officials get Williams' notice and study it.