

# Witnesses Say Viet

MAY 20 1975

## 'Orphans' Have Families

Several witnesses testified yesterday that many of the Vietnamese "orphans" airlifted to the United States last month tearfully pleaded on their arrival to be returned to their families.

The accounts came during a day-long hearing in U.S. District Court on a lawsuit aimed at halting adoption proceedings for the more than 2000 children flown out of Saigon.

The lawsuit seeks to compel the federal government to enlist the aid of international agencies in making background checks on the youngsters to find out which are legally entitled to be adopted.

Several of those who testified on behalf of the plaintiff, the Committee to Protect the Rights of Vietnamese Children, said the record-keeping on the confused arrivals was disorderly.

"Everything was in very much disarray, with piles of paper everywhere," said Suzanne Hurwitz, who spent a day as a volunteer at the Presidio, where 1110 incoming children were processed.

4FB)g-R-e

Another volunteer, Vietnamese-born Mai Champlin, said she spent two days working as a translator. "Six or seven children I talked to had parents in Vietnam," she said.

One of them, Mrs. Chamboy who kept saying in Vietnamese, "Carry me to my mommy." She added 1/8 "It was a very painful experience for me."

SEE NYT, 20 MAY

Katherine Hall, a registered nurse, said a doctor approached her at the Presidio and asked to switch identification bracelets on two youngsters, claiming he had

permission to do so. "I let him do it," she said.

Teunison Clark, tional Development, said that the airlift included only children who had been marked for adoption in advance of the collapse of Saigon.

These youngsters were selected by seven private U.S. adoption agencies, which went through the proper South Vietnamese channels to gain advance approval for their flight to the U.S., Clark said. 2% a 1/8 • Fw- ' -yi.n." of",m", " — Gordon F. Davidson, a deputy district director for the Immigration and Naturalization Service, said his department depends on the State Department and the adoption agencies to determine whether the children are truly orphans. The hearing resumes at 8 a.m. today before U.S. District Judge Spencer Williams.