

**MIXUPS CHARGED
IN ORPHAN AIRLIFT**

**Court Is Told Vietnamese
Were Lost or Unidentified**

Special to The New York Times

SAN FRANCISCO, May 19—
Several witnesses testified in
Federal District Court here to-
day that during Operation Air-
lift at the Presidio Army Base,
doctors switched identifications

of children, children were lost
and not found later, other
children were never identified,
and some of the children who
were brought here from Viet-
nam last month were not or-
phans.

The testimony came during
a hearing on a class action
suit asking that the adoption
of 2,000 children brought here
last month be enjoined until
it could be determined whether
any of them had parents or
other close relatives in Vietnam
who had not signed releases
on them.

One witness testified that
she had talked to children who

indicated that they had parents
in Vietnam and that they had
been removed from the country
against their will.

Richard L. Ridders, district
director of the Children's Home
Society, said his agency had
placed three children in foster
homes who still had not been
properly identified. He said one
of these children was "about
three to five months old" and
that considering the amount
of time it takes to process
a child for an international
adoption, it was highly unlikely
the proper procedures had been
used.

Sharon Sloanne of San Fran-

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cisco, who worked as a full-
time volunteer for Operation
Airlift at the Presidio for five
weeks, said that in some cases
she had "arbitrarily assigned
names to the children" upon
instructions from superiors
when there was confusion as
to which child was which be-
cause some children had sever-
al different names on different
documents.

In response to a question
from Dennis Roberts, a lawyer,
she said she had been told
to "match 'em up as best
you can."

Miss Sloanne said she was

told her services were no lon-
ger desired by Operation Airlift
after it had been learned she
was talking to attorneys for
the plaintiffs.

* SEE SFC, SAME DATE.