SFChronicle

A Continuance In Case of 1975

Viet Orphans

A federal judge here gave the Immigration and Naturalization Service a continuance yesterday in an effort to clarify the adoption status of some 2200 Vietnamese orphans.

U.S. District Judge Spencer Williams said he was confident the INS is making a genuine effort to determine which of the children in question may not actually be orphans. He gave the INS until June 25 to come back to court with information on children whose status may be in doubt.

A variety of organizations have sued on behalf of the children, claiming the youngsters were, in effect, kidnaped and have relatives waiting for them in Vietnam.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John J. Cooney, representing the INS, said, "We don't have a single child we can point to and say that child is not an orphan and there is a family in Vietnam who wants him back. There is certainly no evidence of any mass kidnaping."