

SF Chronicle Viet Orphan Who Wants to Go Home

A Berkeley woman who accepted a Vietnamese child for adoption has told a federal judge the child says she has a family and wants to go home.

Lisa Brodyaga, 34, a law school graduate studying for the California Bar, testified on Wednesday in a case seeking investigations of the true identities of some 2000 children brought to this country during Operation Baby-lift.

The government has been given 90 days by U.S. District Judge Spencer Williams to investigate the children's grounds.

Miss Brodyaga's six-year-old adoptive daughter keeps "a paper bag full of treasures that she wants to take home to her mother," Miss Brodyaga said.

"I don't know what to tell her about her bag of trea-

sure. I'm frustrated. She calls me mother when we are around Americans but not when we are around Vietnamese. She seems to be living a double life."

Miss Brodyaga said she applied to adopt the child through an agency called the Friends of the Children of Vietnam. The agency told her the girl's mother had signed a release for her adoption, but Miss Brodyaga has not seen it, she testified.

She said she would return the child to her parents if both the child and the parents wanted it, and if it is possible.

Another witness, a Vietnamese woman named Tran Thi Bich, told the court through an interpreter that she gave her 6-year-old son to a priest in Saigon — who put him on a flight to the

United States — and has been unable to find him since coming to this country.

Mrs. Bich, who has also two other children, said she gave the boy away because she feared the Communists would kill the child.

Two weeks after the 6-year-old was put aboard an Operation Baby-lift flight, Mrs. Bich and her two other children were able to leave Saigon, she testified.

She is now staying with her American sponsors in Los Angeles.

Plaintiffs in the case, the Ad Hoc Committee to Protect the Rights of Vietnamese Children and the Center for Constitutional Rights, claim that many of the Vietnamese children that were airlifted are not orphans but were "kidnaped from their homeland."