

Ex-Army Nurse Free in Kidnap Case

Philadelphia

A former Army nurse accused of kidnaping two Vietnamese children was allowed to remain free yesterday provided she does not communicate with the girls or their mother.

Sara Coner, 28, of nearby Phoenixville, Pa., surrendered to authorities Sunday. The missing girls, Mae Yen Phuong, 5, and Mai Yen Thanh, 12, were reunited Sunday with their mother, Duong Thi Yen Nga, 32, at the federal courthouse here.

Coner and the Vietnamese girls disappeared April 27 after an emotional tug of war between Coner and Nga over the children.

Nga and Coner had worked together in a U.S. Army hospital in Vietnam. When Coner returned to the United States last year, she was contacted by Nga. Coner agreed to care for the children until Nga was able to escape from her war-ravaged country.

Nga arrived in this country



UPI Telephoto

SARA CONER

She must not contact the girls

eight months later. She complained to social workers in nearby Chester county that Coner did not want to relinquish control of the children.

During a brief hearing yesterday, U.S. Magistrate Richard Powers prohibited Coner from communicating with the children or their mother pending a government decision by June 1 on whether to pursue prosecution of the case.

United Press