



NEWSFILM RELEASE

OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (PUBLIC AFFAIRS)

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PLEASE NOTE DATE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Number: V-16-69

Filmed: Dec. 19, 1968

January 17, 1969

Footage 72' Time 2:00

16mm color composite print

OX 7-6161

ROOM 2E 773

U.S. AIR FORCE SERGEANT AND CALIFORNIA HOMETOWN AID THAI ORPHANS

(Official Department of Defense motion picture film by the U.S. Army under the direction of the MACV Office of Information. Photography by SP6 Foulke and SP5 Morgan: Sound by SP5 Nash.)

Whether in Thailand or Timbuktu, children have always found friends among American GI's. About a year ago, the children, many of them orphans, at the Takhli School in Thailand found a host of friends among the 355th Security Police Squadron stationed at the nearby Takhli Royal Thai Air Force Base. Number One Friend is technical Sergeant Charles McCusker, from Fairfield, California. McCusker worked tirelessly, with his Squadron buddies, to improve the physical facilities at the school. They fixed the roof, floors and foundations, and did some painting. In a letter to his wife McCusker mentioned the renovation project, and asked her to send a box of raisins. She sent the raisins, and a lot more. Mrs. McCusker's fellow employees in a department store became interested in the Thai children, and this sparked an effort which rapidly spread out into the Fairfield community. Toys, sporting goods and clothing, including two hundred pairs of shorts, a ton of gifts in all—were sent to the Takhli School. Sergeant McCusker distributed the gifts at the school and just before Christmas and topped off the happy occasion with ice cream and cake. The Sergeant also had his request for raisins filled to overflowing—1680 boxes of raisins were included in the shipment from home.

SCENE FOOTAGE VIDEO SEQUENCES

AUDIO

3	(a) Ext..Thai flag..orphanage school	Wild track
12	(b) Zoom out playground swings, kids swing	"
9	(c) Sgt. McCusker prepares gifts	"
6	(d) CU's gifts..doll, jump ropes, guns	"
4	(e) Children look in window	"
3	(f) Thai school employee prepares gifts	"
14	(g) Children receive gifts, bow	"
2	(h) Boy plays with toy gun	"
4	(i) McCusker gives presents to diff. boy	"
6	(j) Children play with toys	"
1	(k) McCusker	"
3	(l) Boy eats ice cream	"
3	(m) McCusker dispenses ice cream	"
2	(n) Children enjoy ice cream & cake	"

NOTE TO EDITOR: 72' 16mm color composite print released to ABC-TV, CBS-TV, NBC-TV, Fox Movietone, UPI-Newsfilm and a master and optical track to Deluxe Lab. EDITORS: PLEASE CREDIT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE IN TITLE OR COMMENTARY. This is a "V" series color composite print released to each individual DOD Pool.