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NEWS PAPERS DEFINE STANCE ON 'OPERATION BABYLIFT'

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[From the press review]

[Text] WESTDEUTSCHE ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG defines its attitude toward the Saigon government's ban on the continuation of the airlift for children as follows: "There is the concrete charge that numerous children are being exposed to an uncertain future through rash activity because foster parents have not yet been found for all of them. This charge must be taken seriously and must be investigated lest the whole action be suspected of misusing orphans as objects of speculation. But above all, President Ford should not be induced by the great publicity scored by babylift to use the children as means of propoganda to divert attention from the mistakes of U.S. Vietnam policy. No humanitarian measure can gloss over the failure of the United States in the past."

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG stresses: "It is regrettable that the humanitarian aid action is being blotted out by the harassing fire of political propoganda. Not only communists, but representatives of the South Vietnamese opposition also argue that the fate of the children is being misused for gaining political capital. We can only hope that this charge will be refuted. The baby airlift cannot and must not be a means of psychological warfare. As understandable and sensible as the aid action is in many cases, it must not gloss over the fact that primarily the healthy and cute babies have a chance for a better life. But who cares about the cripples?"

The editorial writer of NEUE RUHR ZEITUNG, Essen, notes: "Whatever the Americans do or not do, they may be sure of getting a spanking from one part of world public opinion: There is talk of kidnaping and pacifying one's conscience in connection with the baby airlift, and as far as the Young Socialists of the Federal Republic are concerned, the South Vietnamese refugee tragedy plainly and simply is a consequence of the criminal war tactics developed by the United States. What ignorance, what arrogance is inherent in such contentions; do the Young Socialists want to refuse acknowledging that the communist North Vietnamese have started their war machinery moving and that a couple of million South Vietnamese simply do not want to live under communist rule and, therefore, take to flight just like in Germany where millions of people had fled one time? The anti-American game with the distress and the misery of the Veitnam refugees is damnable."