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BY NGUYEN ANH TUYET

SAIGON (UPI) -- THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT TODAY REFUSED TO ISSUE ANY MORE EXIT PERMITS FOR WAR ORPHANS, PUTTING A STOP TO PRESIDENT FORD'S "OPERATION BABYLIFT," A SENIOR AMERICAN REFUGEE WORKER SAID.

"AS OF TODAY, THE EVACUATION OF ORPHANS IS OVER," SAID DON SCOTT, VIETNAM DIRECTOR OF THE U.S. RELIEF ORGANIZATION WORLD VISION.

SCOTT SAID THE ORDERS CAME FROM SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTER PHAN QUANG DAN, WHO HAD BEEN PRESSED BY SOUTH VIETNAMESE CITIZENS NOT TO SEND CHILDREN OUT OF THEIR OWN COUNTRY.

"A SENIOR AIDE TO THE MINISTER TOLD ME NO MORE EXIT VISAS WILL BE ISSUED TO ORPHANS," SCOTT SAID. THE AIDE TOLD HIM DAN DECREED THAT "ABSOLUTELY NO MORE ORPHANS WILL LEAVE," HE ADDED.

DAN HAD PROMISED TO EXPEDITE THE EXIT OF 1,400 ORPHANS FROM SOUTH VIETNAM AND ALL THEIR PAPERS WILL HAVE BEEN PROCESSED BY MID-AFTERNOON TODAY. THE MINISTER HIMSELF WAS UNAVAILABLE FOR COMMENT.

ABOUT 900 HAD LEFT BY SUNDAY, MOST OF THEM FOR THE UNITED STATES. OTHERS WERE FLOWN TO CANADA AND AUSTRALIA FOR ADOPTION.

PRESSURE HAS BEEN BUILDING ON THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT FROM CITIZENS WHO FEEL ALMOST UNANIMOUSLY THAT THE CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BE SENT FROM THEIR COUNTRY, EVEN THOUGH MOST OF THEM WERE SIBED BY AMERICAN GIs DURING THE DIRECT AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE INDOCHINA WAR.

EXCEPT IN CASES WHERE THE FATHER WAS BLACK, VIETNAMESE HARBOR LITTLE OR NO PREJUDICE AGAINST CHILDREN OF MIXED RACIAL PARENTAGE.

SCOTT SAID HE HOPED TO PRESS THE ISSUE WITH SOUTH VIETNAMESE AND AMERICAN OFFICIALS IN AN EFFORT TO RENEW THE ORPHAN EVACUATION FLIGHTS.

"THE AUSTRALIANS ARE WILLING TO TAKE MORE, WE KNOW," HE SAID.

"PRESIDENT FORD HIMSELF HAS SAID THE UNITED STATES WILL TAKE AT LEAST 2,000 KIDS.

"WE HAVE WHOLE ORPHANAGES FROM THE NORTH," SCOTT SAID, REFERRING TO AREAS OVERRUN BY COMMUNIST FORCES. "WE HAVE CHILDREN HERE WITH NOWHERE TO GO, NOTHING TO DO. THEY HAVE LOST THEIR PARENTS UP NORTH."

IN SAIGON, OPPOSITION PARTIES SUNDAY CALLED THE BABYLIFT A "FILTHY AND DIRTY" TRICK AND PUBLISHED A LETTER FROM DAN TO THE NEW SOUTH VIETNAMESE PRIME MINISTER ASKING FOR SPEEDIER PROCESSING.

"THE EMIGRATION OF ORPHANS WILL CREATE MORE EMOTION ALL OVER THE WORLD, ESPECIALLY IN THE UNITED STATES, WHICH WILL BE OF ADVANTAGE TO SOUTH VIETNAM," THE LETTER SAID.

OPPOSITION POLITICIANS SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS USING THE ISSUE FOR "PROPAGANDA, TO CREATE EMOTION AND TO ASK FOR MORE AID."

REDEMPTORIST PRIEST CHAN TIN, ONE OF THE SIGNERS OF A PETITION DENOUNCING THE EXPLOITATION OF THE ORPHANS, SAID THE UNITED STATES AND SOUTH VIETNAM ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF ABOUT 100 ORPHANS IN THE C3 GALAXY CRASH FRIDAY AT TAN SON NHUT AIRPORT, WHICH KILLED AT LEAST 178 PERSONS.

OF 178 ORPHANS WHO ARRIVED AT CLARK AIR BASE IN THE PHILLIPINES SUNDAY ABOARD MILITARY AIRCRAFT FROM VIETNAM, 28 WERE TAKEN BY AMPULANCE TO HOSPITAL FOR A VARIETY OF AILMENTS. THEY WERE JUDGED TOO SICK TO CONTINUE THEIR JOURNEY TO THE UNITED STATES.

THE SAME C141 STARFIGHTER PLANES ALSO CARRIED ALMOST 200 CIVILIAN ADULTS, MANY OF THEM AMERICANS, FROM SAIGON IN A CONTINUING EVACUATION OF FOREIGNERS FROM SOUTH VIETNAM, WHERE COMMUNIST FORCES HAVE GOBBLED UP ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THE COUNTRY IN THEIR CURRENT OFFENSIVE.

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