

Memo from Daniel Parker to Theodore Marris about Airlift of Vietnamese Children, April 3, 1975

Department of State
Agency for International Development
Washington

The Administrator

FOR HONORABLE THEODORE C. MARRS
Special Assistant to the President for Human Resources
The White House

SUBJECT: A.I.D. Efforts to Airlift Vietnamese Orphans to the United States

A.I.D. is working with the Republic of Vietnam to expedite transportation to the United States for about 2,000 Vietnamese orphans now in Saigon. I have directed that funds from a \$2 million children's assistance allocation be used to airlift them in suitable and safe aircraft as soon as possible and that the USAID Mission in Saigon move immediately to cut through any red tape or bureaucratic obstacles.

These orphans are now in the custody of licensed adoption agencies operating in Vietnam. They were already in the process of adoption by American families living in various parts of the United States. Those few who do not have families arranged will be placed with families now on waiting lists of the agencies.

We do not now need foster care homes or additional sponsoring families. Adoption agencies involved which have U.S. offices will be contacting the prospective parents.

Inquiries from families in the U.S. who are in the process of adopting Vietnamese children should be made to the appropriate adoption agencies. (A list is attached).