

A BILL

To confer United States citizenship on certain Vietnamese children and to provide for the adoption of such children by American families.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 That, the Congress declares that—

4 (1) during the course of the Vietnam conflict,
5 thousands of children were fathered in Vietnam by
6 United States citizens;

7 (2) current procedures for adoption of and grant-
8 ing citizenship to illegitimate children born in Vietnam
9 make provision of assistance extremely difficult;

1 (3) the French, following their departure from
2 Vietnam in 1954, offered citizenship and educational
3 assistance to the illegitimate children of French soldiers;

4 (4) Americans have expressed the desire to adopt
5 Vietnamese orphans of American extraction, so that
6 they may receive the care and love which the disrup-
7 tions and tragedies of the Indochinese war have
8 denied them;

9 (5) if adoption procedures could be expedited and
10 redtape eliminated, there would be homes for thousands
11 of Vietnamese-American orphans; and

12 (6) the United States has a special responsibility
13 to assist in facilitating the care and adoption of those
14 children in South Vietnam whose parent is a United
15 States citizen no longer providing parental care to the
16 child.

17 SEC. 2. Notwithstanding the Immigration and Nation-
18 ality Act, the children qualifying under section 3 shall be
19 citizens of the United States.

20 SEC. 3. Each child shall be qualified for the purposes of
21 this Act who, to the satisfaction of the State Department
22 under such rules and regulations as the Secretary of State
23 shall prescribe—

24 (1) was born in the Republic of Vietnam prior to
25 January 1, 1974, and orphaned or abandoned;

1 (2) is of an age such that not more than twelve
2 years have passed from the date of such child's birth to
3 the date of the enactment of this Act;

4 (3) in all probability has or had one parent who
5 was at the time of such child's birth a citizen of the
6 United States; and

7 (4) is placed through an adoption agency in the
8 United States licensed or properly accredited according
9 to pertinent local, State, and Federal law with suitable
10 parent or parents in the United States, with a prefer-
11 ence for any natural parent of such child, who is or are
12 willing to adopt the child upon its arrival in the United
13 States.

14 SEC. 4. (a) The Department of State shall make the
15 arrangements necessary to inform properly accredited adop-
16 tion agencies in the United States of children potentially
17 eligible for the benefits of this Act, and cooperate in the
18 placement of such children under section 3 (4).

19 (b) The Department of State shall make the arrange-
20 ments necessary to transport children who are qualified under
21 this Act to their adoptive parents in the United States at the
22 expense of the United States.

23 SEC. 5. The President and the Secretary of State are
24 authorized to negotiate and to make such arrangements with
25 the Republic of Vietnam as are necessary to effectuate the

1 purposes of this Act while assuring that citizenship conferred
2 under this Act is in accordance with the norms of interna-
3 tional law and the treaty obligations of the United States.

4 SEC. 6. No person shall acquire any right, privilege, or
5 status under the Immigration and Nationality Act by reason
6 of such person's relationship to any child granted citizenship
7 under the first section of this Act.
