



PRIME MINISTER

Press Statement 485A
4 April 1975

VIETNAM ORPHANS

The Qantas 747 carrying Vietnamese orphans to Australia is now expected to reach Sydney shortly after midday tomorrow.

The Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam, told the Premiers of details of the aircraft's movements in messages tonight.

He said the aircraft would fly from Bangkok to Sydney. The children would be taken to the Quarantine station at North Head for reception and care pending their allocation to individual States.

Mr Whitlam said officials of the Department of Labor and Immigration were in touch with the adoption authorities in the States on the details of these arrangements, including details of where the assistance of various State authorities might be required.

(For Background: The latest information from Foreign Affairs is that the Qantas aircraft will be in Bangkok only 90 minutes. The orphans from Vietnam will be leaving there up until about 9.00 pm Saigon time. Present expected time of arrival in Sydney is 12.20 pm Saturday.

TOWNSVILLE. QLD.