

Irene Gomez-Bethke Papers.

Copyright Notice:

This material may be protected by copyright law (U.S. Code, Title 17). Researchers are liable for any infringement. For more information, visit www.mnhs.org/copyright.



NEWS OF INTERNATIONAL SOURCES AND THEIR PROCEDURES AS WELL AS CHILDREN'S CULTURAL RESOURCES

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 2

Copyright by Los Ninos

April/May 1981

Newsletter of Los Ninos International Adoption Information Center, Inc. A non profit, professional guidance/research center approved by the state of Minnesota

THE INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION SITUATION

Since our February/March issue, Los Ninos has uncovered a number of new adoption sources and procedures. Please consult the chart below for these new entries. The additions and changes are entered in capital letters.

EASTERN HEMISPHERE

Australia*
Bangladesh: 1 govt. source, lawyer's list
Egypt (only Moslems may apply)
Germany(West): govt. & private sources
Ghana: 1 govt. source
Greece: govt. & 1 private agency
Hong Kong: 1 govt. & 2 private sources
India: 3 govt. & 6 private sources
Indonesia: 1 govt. & 2 private sources
ISRAEL: RESIDENTS ONLY*
Italy*
Japan: 4 govt. & 3 private sources
Korea: 4 private sources
Lebanon**
Liberia**
MAURITIUS: 1 PRIVATE AGENCY

Morocco: (only Moslems may apply)
Philippines: 1 govt. & 2 private sources
Poland: govt. adoption sources
Portugal & Azores: govt. & private
Singapore: 1 govt. source
Spain: 5 govt. sources
SRI LANKA: 1 GOVT. & 1 PRIVATE SOURCE
Sudan*
TAIWAN: 3 PRIVATE ADOPTION SOURCES
Thailand: 7 private sources
Tunesia: (only Moslems may apply)
U.S. TERRITORIES, GUAM AMERICAN SAMOA
GOVT. & PRIVATE SOURCES
Micronesia: U.S. govt. sources
Western Samoa: private lawyers
Yugoslavia: govt 7 private sources

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Argentina: 3 govt. & 1 private agency
Bahamas: private lawyers
Barbados, including 8 other islands,
 1 govt & private sources
Belize: private lawyers
BOLIVIA: 1 govt. & 1 private source
BRAZIL: 5 GOVT. & 5 PRIVATE SOURCES
Canada*
Chile: 1 govt. & 3 private sources
COLOMBIA: 36 GOVT. & PRIVATE SOURCES
Costa Rica: 1 govt. & 1 private source
Dominican Republic: 1 govt. & 1 private
Ecuador: 1 private agency & lawyer's list

El Salvador**

GUATEMALA: 2 GOVT. & 2 PRIVATE SOURCES
Guyana: 1 govt. source
Haiti: 1 govt. source
Honduras: 1 govt. & 2 private sources
Jamaica: 1 govt. source
MEXICO: 30 GOVT. & PRIVATE SOURCES
Panama: 1 govt. source
PERU: 1 govt. & 3 private sources
Suriname: 1 govt. source
Trinidad & Tobago: 1 govt. source
URUGUAY: RESIDENTS ONLY*
Puerto Rico & Virgin Islands: U.S. Govt.
Sources and private lawyers.
Venezuela: 1 govt. source & lawyer's list

^{*}International adoptions are discouraged due to the few children available for adoption **International adoptions are inadvisable due to civil strife

NEW ADOPTION SOURCES

The following report covers responses received since the February/March issue. When writing to these sources, always get your letter translated into the official language of the country, unless you know that the individual you are writing to is bilingual. Enclose a self-addressed envelope and International Reply Coupons which can be purchased at U.S. Post Offices. Send your letter Air Mail Special Delivery. These courtesies may help you to get a response within six weeks instead of the usual wait of two to four months.

Translations in almost every language can be obtained through the International Institutes located in most major U.S. cities. Consult your telephone book or operator for the addresses and phone numbers.

AFRICA AFRICA AFRICA AFRICA

• Mauritius. This former British Colony, which is an island in the Indian Ocean, has babies and children available for adoption. Their ethnicity is French and/or East Indian. A guardianship decree is issued and the children are escorted to their new countries of residence. The director of the adoption agency is:

Mr. Serge Felix, O.R.A.C.

16 Ollier Avenue

Rose-Hill. Mauritius.

The official languages of Mauritius are French and English.

1 orphan was adopted by U.S. citizens in 1976; more recent figures not yet available.

ASIA ASIA ASIA ASIA

- •Israel. A recent communique from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in Tel Aviv informs us that only permanent residents of Israel may adopt.
- •Sri Lanka (Ceylon). Babies and children of predominantly Sinhalese (East Indian) descent are available for adoption through the Salvation Army in Colombo, as well as a convent in Hendela. Write:

Capt. G.I. Fudge The Haven, 127 E.W. Perera, Mawatha Colombo 10, Sri Lanka Sister Dympna Good Shepherd Convent Nayakanda, Hendela, Sri Lanka

The major languages in Sri Lanka are English, Sinhalese and Tamil.
3 orphans were adopted by U.S. citizens in 1976; more recent figures not yet available.

OR

•Taiwan. Babies of Chinese descent are available for adoption by childless or one-child families, preferably of Roman Catholic faith, through: Cathwel Services
P.O. Box 8-184
Taipei, Taiwan

The official language of Taiwan is Chinese. English is widely spoken. 20 orphans were adopted by U.S. citizens in 1979.

EUROPE EUROPE EUROPE EUROPE

• Azores. Babies and children of Portuguese descent are available for adoption in orphanages on the islands of Sao Miguel, Teceira, Faial and Sao Jorge. However, the best approach would probably be to contact a bilingual lawyer to locate a child and handle the paperwork. Single as well as married couples between the ages of 25 and 60 may apply. The official language in the Azores is Portuguese. For more specific procedural information and a list of lawyers and orphanages, send for Los Niños' Adoption Prospectus on Portugal. (14 orphanages and 8 lawyers.) 6 orphans were adopted by U.S. citizens in 1979.

LATIN AMERICA

LATIN AMERICA

LATIN AMERICA

LATIN AMERICA

LATIN AMERICA

• Mexico. One of our board members, Pixie Holbrook of Little City Road, Higganum, CT 06441, has asked that persons interested in adoption write to the President of the Board of Directors at Casa de Cuna, Puebla, Mexico. Pixie believes that letters written by U.S. citizens sincerely interested in legally adopting a Mexican child from this orphanage may help bring about a more positive attitude toward international adoptions there. Your letter of inquiry, explaining your home study report, your F.B.I. clearance

as well as your ability to emotionally, physically and financially support a child may be written in English and sent to Sr. and Sra. Abelerado Sanchez Gutierrez, 1308 #13 Sur, Puebla, Puebla, Mexico.

A recent communique from the U.S. Consular District of Cuidad Juarez, state of Chihuahua, which is located across the international border from El Paso, Texas, lists 4 child-placing sources.

- →1. Cuidad Del Niño
 Holanda Sin Numero
 Cuidad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico
- →2. Orfanatorio Guadalupe Delgollado 1034 Sur Cuidad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico
- →3. Granja Hogar de los Niños Nombre de Dios sin Numero Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Mexico
- →4. Hogar de Niños Ejercito de Salvation Tamborel 607 Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Mexico

Write, call, or, preferably visit them for specific details on adoptions. 30 orphans were adopted by U.S. citizens in 1979. 24 adoptions were finalized in Chihuahua; 6 were finalized in the United States. Ethnicity: Spanish/Indian or Indian.

• Bolivia. New procedures have arrived from Dra. Graciela Torricos de Riera, (Phone 376867), of the Junta Nacional de Accion Social, Yanacocha No. 963, La Paz, Bolivia.

Babies and children are available through two procedures, adoption by childless adopters over the age of 40, or "arrogation" (guardianship), a method usually reserved for handicapped children for adopters over the age of 30. Translated copies of the required documents and procedures are available from Los Niños. Ethnicity: Spanish/Indian or Indian. 12 orphans were adopted by U.S. citizens in 1976.

• Costa Rica. According to the Costa Rican Consul in Chicago, IL, the Patronato, (the government welfare agency) is now accepting some applications for babies from foreigners who meet their requirements. The Patronato communicates with the adoptive parents, rather than their U.S.-based adoption agencies. The adoptive parents must travel to Costa Rica to initiate the adoption. They may choose to stay for one to two months to obtain the final decree necessary before the orphan can emigrate, or arrange for an escort and return home to await notification of the final decree, or return for the child upon issuance of the final decree. The Patronato handles the adoptions free of charge. except for a \$70.00 fee to cover the adoption edict and seals. Ethnicity is Spanish or Spanish/Indian.
50 orphans were adopted by U.S. citizens in 1979.

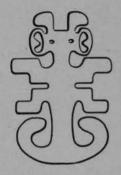
· Costa Rica, continued.

A translation of the documents required and the procedure is available from Los Ninos.

Applicants may write to:

Sra. Sandra Hidalgo
Oficina de Admisión
Apartado 5000

Programa Recursos de Ubicación
Patronato Nacional de la Infancia
San José, Costa Rica



The Chibcha: Ancient Symbol of Colombia.

LOS NINOS HAS INFORMATION ON 36 CHILD-PLACING SOURCES IN COLOMBIA

• COLOMBIA. This South American country is second only to Korea in numbers of orphans adopted by U.S. citizens. 763 were adopted in 1980. from Colombia; 2,284 were adopted from Korea in 1979. Ethnicity is Spanish/Indian, Spanish, Indian or African, as well as biracial and triracial mixtures. However, the Spanish/Indian Mestizos predominate.

Colombian law requires that the adoptive parents be over 25 years old and at least 15 years older than the child to be adopted. Three methods of adoption are possible: 1. An orphan may be adopted by "power-of'attorney" to initiate the adoption and the personal appearance of the adopters in Colombia to receive the child.

2. An orphan may be adopted by "power-of-attorney" by proxy with escort.

3. Prospective parents may take their homestudy, preprocessed I-600 Petition, and identifying documents and "travel abroad to locate a child" --after making appointments beforehand. Their stay in Colombia is about 3-4 weeks after locating a child.

→ Medellin. A small, new agency is directed by Protestant missionaries from the United States. They are:
Paul and Susy Goring
Casa Shalom
A.A. 55042
Medellin, Colombia

→ Cali. The private agency in Cali is now giving priority to childless couples. However, they are now working with six more Colombian lawyers to increase their number of referrals and to speed up their adoption procedures. Adoptions are initiated by power-of-attorney. One or both adopters must travel to Colombia to receive the child. You may call or write in English to one of their lawyers:

Dra. Leonor Uribe de Villegas

Avenida 5a. N. #23D-48,

685572

A.A. 3417

Cali. Colombia



INSTITUTO COLOMBIANO DE BIENESTAR FAMILIAR

Prospective adoptive parents who already have more than one child, are middle aged or beyond, are single or often divorced are turning to the I.C.B.F.s located in Colombia's Departmental capitals. for sources of orphaned and abandoned children. Maxine Sullivan of Amigos, an adoptive parents group in Oregon, was the first person to adopt from an I.C.B.F., publish her experience, and go on to research adoption possibilities at other I.C.B.F.s for the benefit of other preadoptive parents. Los Niños has undertaken the task of obtaining the procedures from each I.C.B.F.; no two are exactly the same.

NEW

TO

OUR LIST

Neiva, Huila, Colombia. A list of the documents required and a letter explaining that foreigners may adopt children over the age of $2\frac{1}{2}$ was recently sent to us by: Dr. Marco Fidel Gaito Yague, Regional Director of I.C.B.F. Phone: 26072 Avenida Circunvalacion, Calle 21 Neiva, Huila, Colombia

Write in Spanish. A translation of the documents required by this I.C.B.F. is available from Los Niños. Most of the children come from the orphanage in Neiva, the Hogar Infantil La Vorágine.

-- Sincelejo, Sucre, Colombia. Procedures and a list of the documents required were recently sent to us, as well as a letter which states that this I.C.B.F. will refer abandoned children to foreigners. A six and a twelve year old girl and a fourteen year old boy of Mestizo ethnicity are currently waiting for homes. The adoption procedures are handled by government attorneys and are free of charge. Write in Spanish. A translation of the documents required by this I.C.B.F. is available from Los Niños, as well as the procedures, which include "power-of-attorney." Dr. Remberto Bitar Perez, Regional Director of I.C.B.F. Phone: 20599 Centro Comunitario Josefina Quintero de Vargas Kra. 17, Calle 23 (Barrio San Vicente) Sincelejo, Sucre, Colombia

• GUATEMALA

Babies and children are available from four child placing sources. Children are of Spanish/Indian or Indian descent.

- 1. Hogar Elisa Martinez c/o Mirna Martinez de Meza 8a. Avenida y 32 Calle, Zona 11, Guatemala City, Guatemala Guatemala City, Guatemala Phone: 42270
- 2. A.G.A.N.D. c/o Mirna Vargas 8a. Avenida 26-24, Zona 11 Guatemala City, Guatemala Phone: 481364 (Children placed only through Children's Home Society of St. Paul. Minnesota)
- 3. Patronato Contra la Mendicidad 5a, Avenida 4-19, Zona 1, Phone: 538696
 - 4. Hogar Campestre Adventista "Los Pinos" 15 Avenida 18-65, Zona 13 Guatemala City, Guatemala Phone: 65372

SOUTH PACIFIC ISLANDS SOUTH PACIFIC ISLANDS SOUTH PACIFIC ISLANDS

• Guam. Babies and children of Chamarro, Philippine and Spanish descent are available for adoption. Since the children are U.S. citizens, no I-600 petition for an orphan visa is necessary. English is the official language.

For specific details, write: Mrs. Julita S.N. Lifoifoi, Child Welfare Supervisor Child Welfare Unit Department of Public Health and Social Services P.O. Box 2816 Agana, Guam 96910

NEXT ISSUE. Adoption procedures of Minnesotans who are adopting children in Rio de Janeiro. Brazil and Pago, Pago, American Samoa. Also - the adoption procedures for Pereira, Risaralda, Colombia and Barranquilla, Colombia.

SINGLE PARENT'S INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION SOURCES

• List of countries in the Western Hemisphere

Argentina
Barbados
Brazil, some states, including Brasilia
and Rio de Janeiro
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Dominican Republic

Ecuador
Guatemala
Honduras
Mexico, some states, including Puebla
Panama
Peru
Puerto Rico

● List of countries in the Eastern Hemisphere

India
Philippines
Portugal, the Azores
Spain, (single widows and widowers)
U.S. Trust Territories and Commonwealths in the South Pacific
Western Samoa



ISSUANCE OF A FINAL ADOPTION DECREE BEFORE THE CHILD IMMIGRATES

Residents of some states, such as Wisconsin, are required by law to either obtain a final decree for the child before immigration or to adopt a child from a U.S.-based international agency which is responsible for the child until he or she is adopted six months later in the U.S.. Following is a list of countries which issue these final decrees as well as countries where an adoptive parent can negotiate with an adoption attorney there for a final decree to quickly follow the usual initial decree.

• List of countries in the Western Hemisphere

Bolivia
Brazil, some states, including
Rio de Janeiro
Colombia (negotiable)
Costa Rica
Dominican Republic

Ecuador
Guatemala (negotiable)
Mexico (some states, including Puebla,
Chihuahua and Baja, California
Panama (negotiable)
Peru

•List of countries in the Eastern Hemisphere

Germany Greece Indonesia Japan Korea Poland Sri Lanka Taiwan Western Samoa

DEFINITIONS OF INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION TERMS

→ Home study. - An evaluation of a prospective adoptive parent's ability to emotionally, physically and financially care for a child. This evaluation is a summary of four to six interviews written by a licensed social worker. The Immigration and Naturalization Service, as well as many foreign child-placing sources, require a copy of the home study.

The public welfare department, or similarly named state agency located in the capital city of each state, provides the names and addresses of licensed public and private agencies which conduct home studies for foreign adoptions. A copy of the state adoption laws may also be obtained from the state agency.

- → Post-placement reports. An evaluation of the adoptive child's adjustment in her or his new home as well as the care provided by the adoptive parents. This evaluation is a summary of two or more visits conducted by a licensed social worker. The post-placement report is required for an adoption or readoption of a foreign child in her or his new state of residence, as well as by some of the foreign child placing sources.
- → Orphan visas. A document required by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Anyone contemplating a foreign adoption may preprocess an I-600 Petition to Classify an Orphan as an Immediate Relative at their local INS office. The petition is sent to the F.B.I. in Washington, D.C., which investigates the petitioners for any record of criminal conduct. The F.B.I. clearance (or denial) is sent to the local INS offices within 40 days. The I-600 Petition is valid for one year.

Most experts in international adoptions recommend that prospective parents file the I-600 with all required documents and fingerprint charts at the same time that they are sending out adoption inquiry letters abroad. Children are sometimes referred by return mail—within 6-8 weeks. If the F.B.I. clearance is not on file at the local INS office (due to smudged fingerprint charts, etc.,) the adoptive parents cannot immigrate their child.

If the preadoptive parents have not been assigned a child within a year, they will have to file the petition again and pay the \$35.00 fee; a small price to pay for keeping your adoption routines running smoothly!

AN INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION NETWORK

Los Niños exists to performtwo vital functions: to provide guidance in "parentinitiated" international adoptions and to provide enrichment to international families
thru cultural resources. A "parent-initiated" adoption, in contrast to an "agencyinitiated" adoption, is one in which the prospective parent locates the child,
communicates with the foreign child-placing agency, coordinates the procedures of their
state, INS and the foreign country, and(usually)travels to the foreign country to escort
the child home and to learn something about the child's culture and customs.

We ask friends of Los Niños to send us procedures of adoption sources approved by their national governments, as well as cultural bibliographic materials. We will, of course, give credit to the writer of any report or contribution. Please query first. For a new adoption source or procedure, we will exchange information or pay \$25.00.

PERIODICALS

- Africa News. Box 3851, Durham, N.C. 27702. \$18.00 per year.

 Twice monthly digest of African affairs, news and culture.
- Asia. P.O. Box 1308-A, Fort Lee, N.J. 07024. \$6.97 per year.
 Magazine published every other month on Asian affairs, news and culture
- Europe. 2100 M Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037. \$6.00 per year.

 Magazine published every other month on European affairs, news and culture.
- The Times of the Americas. 910 17th St. N.W., Suite 933, Washington, D.C. 20006. \$25.00 yr. Twice monthly newspaper on Latin American affairs, news and culture.

• LOS NIÑOS SERVICES •

dBooks and manuscripts.

Gamines: How to Adopt From Latin America, by Jean and Heino Erichsen 1981, Dillon Press, 500 South 3rd St., Minneapolis, MN 55415. Hardcover, 352 pages, photographs. \$12.95 plus 75¢ postage.

Provides the first comprehensive, practical guide to adopting from Latin America and relates the bittersweet stories of once-abandoned children and their American adoptive parents. Contains names, addresses and procedures for 24 countries.

How to Adopt From Africa, Asia, Europe and the South Pacific, by Jean and Heino Erichsen 1981, a manuscript of 143 pages available from Los Ninos. \$12.95 plus 75¢ postage.

Provides the first comprehensive, practical guide to adopting from the Eastern Hemisphere and lists the names and addresses as well as procedures for over 55 countries.

Latin American Children's Cultural Resources, by Jean Nelson-Erichsen. 1981, a manuscript of 20 pages available from Los Ninos. \$5.95 plus 75¢ postage.

A bibliography and buying guide of book and non-book materials covering subjects of arts and crafts, cooking, cultures and customs, festivals, folklore, films, slides, games, hobbies and toys, geography, history, language, magazines, newspapers and music.

Minneota Minn,

✓<u>Introductory materials on Los Niños' Services...</u>please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope and \$1.00.

√INDIVIDUALIZED PORTFOLIOS

Designed to fit the needs of each prospective adoptive parent may be ordered by filling out a personal data form. We will send you the names and addresses of foreign agencies which seem the most appropriate for you to contact.....\$45.00

♦ PROSPECTUSES ON SPECIFIC COUNTRIES

Research materials include U.S. consulate information, foreign welfare department lists of authorized child-placing sources, lawyers and, when available, the adoption laws. Colombia, with 36 child-placing sources, is \$50.00. Brazil and Mexico are \$45.00 Spain, Germany and India are \$35.00. The other countries are \$25.00

INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION FILES FOR LAW LIBRARIES, ADOPTION AGENCIES AND ADOPTIVE PARENTS

₹MULTI MEDIA SHOWS, 80 slides plus script and synchronized cassette.

"International Adoptions" and "Latin American Children's Cultures" for rent or purchase.

CORRESPONDENCE COURSES AND INDEPENDENT STUDIES (sample syllabus upon request)

CONSULTATIONS (in person or by pre-arranged phone call or letter)

• PROFESSIONAL SERVICES •

Mary Alarcon, a former Peace Corps volunteer at I.C.B.F. in Bogotá, Colombia, is a translator whom we highly recommend. Mary consults with her Colombian husband, a law student, when she translates legal documents. She also places calls to Colombia for U.S. prospective adopters who have written questions that they need answered. Since it can take several days just to get a line through to Colombia, we appreciate Mary's patience in providing this service.

Mary Alarcon

Phone 788-6892 home

1838 Polk Street, N.E. Minneapolis, MN 55418

Phone 788-6892 home 347-6500 office extension 326

Juan Hoyos Fonseca, adoption liaison in Bogotá, Colombia, will return to the United States in May or June. We thank him for his fine investigative work on behalf of Los Niños, as well as the guidance he has provided to traveling adopters.



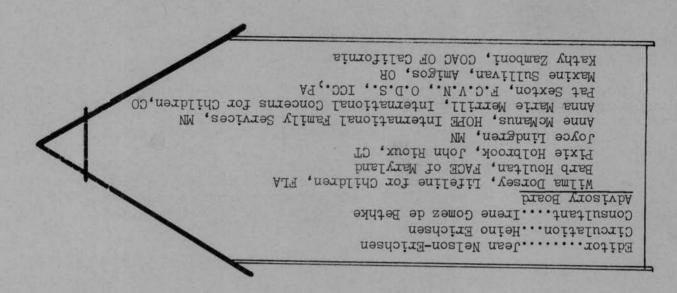
CHILDREN'S CULTURAL RESOURCES

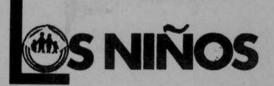
Parents, social workers and teachers will find a wide variety of books, records, maps, games, posters, films and filmstrips on many different nationalities and ethnic groups in the following catalogs:

- 1. Children's Book and Music Center, 5373 West Pico Blvd. Los Angleles, CA 90019 (Major minority groups in the United States are represented.) Elementary level.
- √2. Filipino Development Associates, Inc.
 5089 Yucatan Way, San Jose, CA 95118 (Asia and the South Pacific Islands are represented.) All educational levels.
- √3. Social Studies School Service, 10,000 Culver City, P.O. Box 802
 Culver City, CA 90230 (Major ethnic minorites in the United States
 are represented.) Junior high level to college level.
- ↓4. UNICEF. The United Nations Children's Fund. 331 East 38th Street, New York, NY 10016. Write to the UNICEF Librarian for book lists, informational sheets, teaching units and photographic services. (All countries of the world are represented.) Most educational levels.
- √5. Wible Language Institute, Inc., Allentown, PA 18105. (Bilingual materials on major European languages.) All educational levels.

S NIÑOS

10	<u></u>
	SUBSCRIPTIONS - Los Niños News will bring you up-to-date international adoption information every other month, in this format. If you would like another issue- Enclose \$15.00 to cover a yearly membership Enclose \$30.00 to cover a yearly foreign membership (includes packaging & postage) You may also send a tax deductible contribution to help Los Niños with their research and publication of foreign adoption sources. NAME





INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION INFORMATION CENTER 919 West 28th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408
612/872-4979







Irene Gomen de Bethke 4649 Deciatur Ave N. New Hope, MN 55428



Andy and Eric Cooper adopted in Bogotá, Colombia Fundación Los Pisingos



Andrew Ophaug adopted in Honduras



Katie (sitting) adopted in the U.S. Pattie (kneeling) adopted in the Dominican Republic

NEWS OF INTERNATIONAL SOURCES AND THEIR PROCEDURES AS WELL AS CHILDREN'S CULTURAL RESOURCES

VOLUME 1

NUMBER 4

COPYRIGHT BY LOS NIÑOS

August/September 1981

Newsletter of Los Niños International Adoption and Information Center, Inc. A non profit, adoption guidance research center licensed by the state of Minnesota

S NIÑOS NEWS



Mr. and Mrs. Lynnwood Lowery with Shanon, adopted in Cali, Colombia



Tuck and Tad Forsythe Tad Amilcar is from El Salvador

THE INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION SITUATION

W.L. "Tuck" Forsythe, Ph.d., Director of the Canyonlands Environmental Education Center of Moab, Utah, and his wife, Kay, visited El Salvador and Guatemala a few years ago to observe the culture first hand and to locate a child-placing source. A few months after they returned from their trip, they were assigned a baby boy. Kay returned to El Salvador to obtain the baby's guardianship just as the civil war broke out. Luckily, she was able to complete the paperwork and to bring the baby home. Yet even though their adoption experience had its frightening moments, the Forsythes are anxious to adopt again.

As "Tuck" says, "We are more comfortable with the Latin American person-to-person network than with the North American paperwork and wait routine." Now veterans in every sense, the Forsythes are investigating Colombian adoption sources for a second baby.

PROCEEDING ABROAD TO ADOPT AN UNNAMED ORPHAN

The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service designed the I-600 Petition preprocessing procedure to accommodate U.S. citizens who travel abroad to locate and adopt an orphaned or legally abandoned child.

The Forsythes, as well as the Coopers, whose story appears later in this issue, chose to visit a foreign country to find a child or a child-placing source to accept their applications, rather than send out letters of inquiry and wait for responses.

Both couples were prepared ahead of time with adoption dossiers containing the documents generally required in those countries and they had filed their I-600 Petitions. In addition, they had lists of foreign adoption agencies and orphanages to visit, most of whom do not have child-placing contracts with U.S. or European adoption agencies. Foreign adoption sources such as this are quite likely to place a child with prospective adoptive parents whose identification and other required documents are in order. Persons who can make two trips, or one trip and stay abroad for orphan visa clearance (about 3-4 weeks) might consider this approach.

However, those who choose this approach must know the exact procedures necessary to immigrate the child into their state of residence as well as the procedures of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service and the emigration procedures in the foreign country if they are to bring the adoption to a successful conclusion, as the Forsythes and the Coopers did.

One of the advantages of the parent-initiated approach is that you can arrange to meet the child before you immigrate him or her. A child rsychologist of our acquaintance says, "Fewer adoption disruptions would occur if the prospective adopters had the courage to say 'no' when they have been assigned a child that they know will never fit into their families.

Handled diplomatically, the potential adopters can probably be assigned a different child. And the child, in turn, will be placed with more accepting parents. We have heard of at least one case where a child of nine did not want to be adopted by the parents who had been assigned to her. To their credit, the Colombian agency did not force her into that adoptive family. Instead, they found another child for the adopters, who were waiting patiently in Bogota. And, a few months later, they found a family which was acceptable to the little girl.

Proceeding abroad to adopt an unnamed orphan, which is a parent-initiated approach, has built-in safeguards, among them, the state, the U.S. immigration requirements and foreign procedures, which must be met if the child is to legally immigrate.

Gray and Black Marketeers try to convince prospective adoptive parents that they cannot handle a foreign adoption themselves. However, prospective adoptive parents who know and understand the parent-initiated method cannot be duped into Gray and Black Market dealings.

One such couple is Nancy and Mark Cooper, of Cleveland, Ohio, who sent for our information and spoke to us several times over the phone. We had the pleasure of meeting the entire Cooper family while we attended the adoption conference in Cleveland. Because the Coopers are independent, resourceful people, their sons are with them today.

The following excerpts are from an article written by Nancy Cooper.

THEY SAID IT COULDN'T BE DONE

Don't let anyone tell you a truly independent adoption (parent-initiated) adoption can't be accomplished. It took a lot of hard work and positive thinking - but we made it.

Our story had its beginning several years ago, as the idea of enlarging our family became more than just a thought. More and more—we realized it must become a reality. In June of 1980—after much discussion with our two biological children—bebie then 17 and David then 15—we decided to proceed on our way to adoption.

Our original thought was to adopt two children--boy and girl age 5 or 6 to complete our family. Now--how do we begin? We did not want to wait a year or more, because our children felt a strong desire to share all of our experiences and it wouldn't be long before Debbie would be off to college. Next--came a line of questioning. We started by making many phone calls and asking everyone we could in order to obtain information to help us.

One of the first things we began to find out was that we were not in a great state for adoption. Ohio did not give us much help or hope and none of the organizations in Minnesota or elsewhere could work with us in Ohio. Our local agencies and county agencies advised us of a 6 to 9 year wait for any child or children under the age of 12.

We made contact with a local parent group here called Concern for Children who gave us our first start on how to obtain our paperwork. The first week in June 1980 we made our first visit of Probate Court, Cuyahoga County and filed our first papers for our home study for an international adoption. At the same time, we filed our I-600 Petition and fingerprint charts with the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

We had begun our journey into the world of adoption.

The next three months provided the time to complete all the various papers for our home study. On September 2, we had a hearing in court and our home study was approved and sent to immigration.

On October 6, Mark left for Bogota, Colombia to try to accomplish our dream. With arrangements made in advance, Juan Trujillo, a most marvelous guide and driver, met him at the airport. Juan proved to be invaluable to us throughout our time in Colombia. (Ed. note: This bilingual taxi driver also has a tourist home. The telephone numbers there are 2-45-80-55 or 2-45-80-53. The address is Carrera 5 #49-65, Bogota, Colombia.)

Mark started by making appointments with several agencies in Bogota and on Monday morning he started ringing doorbells and talking to directors or orphanages. Most said, "We do not have anyone available at this time for you." Everyone was extremely nice and took the time to read all the papers Mark was carrying. After visiting 7 agencies in Bogota and the surrounding areas, Mark received a call at the home of Juan from Los Pisingos, saying they had two boys available if Mark wanted to meet them. On Thursday, Mark had lunch with Rosa de Escobar, the Director, and met our new sons.

What followed was an exchange of phone calls between Mark in Bogota and Nancy and family in Cleveland and plans were made. Andrew (Andy) Carlos Cooper, age 6, and Eric Juan Cooper, age 10, became a reality. Everyone at Los Pisingos was most helpful. Their lawyer, Dr. Mejia even came into his office on Saturday to prepare the papers, so Mark could return home on Sunday.

After telling the boys he would be back in a few weeks to pick them up, Mark left for Cleveland, carrying the valuable papers for immigration to clear the way. A few problems locally had to be overcome to obtain the visas. At this point—lets point out—be sure to clarify your local requirements. The boys were not biological brothers, which proved to be a slight stumbling block locally, but we overcame that and visa approval was obtained.

On Thursday, November 20, we left together for Bogota, to bring our sons home. All was ready for us in Colombia, and once again Juan Trujillo, our friend, was at the airport to meet us. He had already picked up the boys at Los Pisingos and they were waiting for us at his home. What a marvelous feeling to walk in and hear two voices calling in Spanish, "Mommy, Daddy." Our family had been united. With much excitement over their new wardrobe we carried, and the many gifts we brought, everyone finally got to bed.

Friday was spent at the U.S. Embassy, and finally, all the papers were ready to go. We spent Saturday shopping and sightseeing and on Sunday, November 23, Andy and Eric arrived in the United States of America with their new Mommy and Daddy. We made it through immigration and arrived home in Cleveland late at night, sleepy but happy, so the boys could greet their new brother and sister, Debbie and David, grandparents and dogs, all of whom were waiting.

We had succeeded, in six months from start to finish, a totally independent adoption and it was worth every drop of time and effort. In the six months Andy and Eric have been here they have learned a great deal. They speak English beautifully and are doing well in school. Because they have each other, they will preserve their Spanish, which we feel very strongly about.

We still want our little girl, and at this writing are anxiously awaiting a call from Los Pisingos telling us they have found our daughter.

We would be delighted to talk with other families who have older children from Colombia or children who might be friends of Eric and Andy from Los Pisingos. We also will be glad to help and encourage anyone who wishes to do a totally independent adoption.

Nancy and Mark Cooper, 24063 Letchworth Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44122 Phone: 216/292-6012

Fundacion Los Pisingos is currently accepting applications for children eight years old and up. Their address:

Rosa de Escobar, Directress Fundacion Los Pisingos Carrera la #68-79 A.A. 50090 Bogota, D.E. Colombia

Ministerio de Salud Pública

Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Famillar

To our knowledge, the I.C.B.F. in Armenia, Ibague, Manizales, Neiva and Sincelejo place children for adoption through government lawyers. The cost to the adoptive parents is nominal; usually less than \$100.00 for court costs and the passport.

The I.C.B.F. in Armenia, Colombia, has placed at least one child in Minnesota. Generally, the adoptions are handled by power-of-attorney through the government lawyers. A stay of two weeks by the adoptive parents in Armenia is not unusual. Babies and children up to 14 are available for adoption. The address:

● Dr. Ruth Figueroa de Correa, Asesor Juridico ICBF Quindio Telephones: 496-88 Calle 21 #14-14, Edificio Banco Central Hipotecario 464-54 Dirección Regional, Sección Admón. y Finanzas (Piso 7°.)

Armenia, Quindio, Colombia

The I.C.B.F. in Barranquilla, Colombia, also places children for adoption, although they appear to recommend private lawyers, rather than use the services of their government lawyers. We recently heard from Robert Arthurs, Consul of the United States of America, who explained the adoption process in Barranquilla. He also sent us the new address of an adoption lawyer who was once the mayor of that city.

• Dr. Alfredo Uribe Edificio Serfinanzas Calle 72 #54-35 A.A. 51578 Barranquilla, Colombia Sorry--the Consul did not send working telephone numbers for the I.C.B.F. or the former mayor.

The I.C.B.F. in Cali, Colombia also places children for adoption; we are as yet unclear as to whether Government lawyers assist in these adoptions or not. However, the address of the ICBF is:

● Dra. Yolanda C. de Mejia or Dr. Guillermo Ruiz Lara Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar Asistencia Legal Cra. 1 #13-42 P.2 Cali, Colombia Telephone: 81-40-33

A private lawyer who places children internationally is: Dr. Maria Christina Bernat de Bonilla (bilingual)

Avenida 8a. #22A-18 A.A. 501 Cali, Colombia Telephone: 61-16-36

The Black Market

Expanded Protection for the Adopted Child, Law 5, January 1975, establishes that only entities authorized by the I.C.B.F. can offer children for adoption. Through the years there have been doctor/lawyer partnerships who arranged adoptions for high fees. The most recent scandal involves a lawyer who, though aware of the Colombian adoption law and procedures, chose to break the law. We thank Maxine Sullivan for sending the article as printed in major newspapers around the country, as well as her Letter to the Editor.

The people's own corner

Reprinted with permission,

August-September 1981

The Amigos Newsletter

In South America

Officials reveal ring to sell children

By WARREN HOGE New York Times News Services

BOGOTA, Columbia — Authorities have uncovered a multimillion-dollar international ring in which hundreds of poor Andean children were kidnapped or bought from their mothers and sold under forged birth certificates and adoption papers to childless couples outside the country.

A Bogota lawyer has been jailed on charges involving the smuggling abroad of 500 to 600 youngsters from Colombia and possibly 100 more from Peru. In neighboring Ecuador, officials have turned up more than a hundred questionable adoptions by Italian families.

The Colombian network is said to have included three juvenile court judges, six notaries, nurses in two maternity clinics, officials of the government's family welfare agency, several secretaries and housewives and a Colombian consul in Spain. Among those charged in Peru is an official of the government unit that handles international earthquake aid. The principal figure arrested so far in the Ecuadorian cases is the president of the national children's court.

Some babies were obtained through nurses who told mothers that their offspring had been born dead and passed the infants along to the lawyer. Others were simply kidnapped or bought from impoverished peasant women. At times, members of the organization were sent out to patrol the city's red-light district to find pregnant prostitutes and persuade them to sell their babies.

An investigation showed that the foreign couples paid \$10,000 to \$15,000 a child. There was no indication that the couples were aware of the group's methods of obtaining the children. Both the Colombian authorities and diplomats in Bogota believe there is almost no chance that any attempt will be made to repatriate youngsters already abroad.

According to the 10,000 pages of evidence in the offices of the investigating magistrate, the imprisoned lawyer, Roberto Vasquez Morales, a 43-year-old father of five, has made \$7 million since resigning his post at the government family welfare agency four years ago and setting up his operation.

The babies were sold to couples from Spain, Italy, France, the Netherlands and Sweden. Investigators have turned up no one in the United States who dealt with Vasquez, and they are investigating the possibility that American couples dealt with his wife, Lucia, on trips she made to the United States.

There is no shortage of adoptable children in Colombia, but the paper-work and minimum two-month delays in arranging legal exchanges made Vasquez's two- to five-day transactions attractive to foreigners.

According to Juan Jacobo Munoz, director of the Colombian Family Welfare Institute, 600 of the approximately 2,000 children born daily in Colombia are outside of any normal family structure. "The majority of them don't have last names and don't know who their father is. Because of this, we have hundreds of children abandoned on streets in hospitals and schools every day.

"There are too many guys in Colombia who after two beers feel they
have to seduce a woman and get her
pregnant." He recalled a case of a woman named Evelia who gave birth to
quintuplets a year ago. When she told
social workers her life history, she
could not remember the names of any
of the fathers of her nine previous children. "This country is full of Evelias"
Munoz said.

The kidnapping and forgery charges against Vasquez will be tried in a military court under Colombia's state-of-siege legal system.

Among those prepared to testify is Gladys Azuero, a 19-year-old illiterate peasant who, after becoming pregnant, went to the Colombian Family Welfare Institute for help. An agency functionary referred her to Vasquez, who lodged her in one of his rooming houses and offered her \$800 for her child.

When she eventually decided she wanted to keep the infant, one of Vasquez's aides took it from her by force. She has not seen her child since The only payment she received was \$3 for bus fare back to her village.

Colombian children

To the Editor: "In South America, officials reveal ring to sell children" (Aug. 17) was of great interest to me as both of our children were legally adopted in Colombia, and I am very involved with our adoptive parent group, Amigos, in helping others to adopt Latin American children.

The scandal in Colombia will have far-reaching consequences in the international adoption community, but it should not be considered a sweeping indictment of the entire Colombian adoption system. Thousands of homeless Colombian children have been adopted by U.S. families in the past 10 years, and many more by Europeans.

The adoption system in Colombia is organized very much like that in Oregon. The Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar could be compared to Oregon's Children's Services Division. It

licenses private adoption agencies, but also operates its own adoption program, with branch offices in at least 20 Colombian cities.

Most U.S. adoptions in Colombia — not the ones described in your article — are processed through six private adoption agencies in Bogota, Medellin and Cali. An increasing number of placements are made through Bienestar offices in various cities throughout the sountry.

The third way — the least common used by U.S. adopters in Colombia — is direct relinquishments, comparable to the doctor-lawyer private placements that are legal also in Oregon. The material of these private placements to be the kind of black-market operation the article describes.

Thus, the scheme operated by Roberto Vasquez Morales of Bogota would be comparable to the imaginary example of a baby-selling ring operated by a Portland attorney with referrals coming from Portland CSD employees and assistance from officers of the court and judicial system. This unlikely event would be a scandal of major proportions, of course, but the private adoption agencies and other branches of the state agency would not necessarily be implicated. This is the case in Colombia. One lawyer's scurrilous activities in one Colombia city were being described, not an entire system.

Our oldest child, soon to be 5, was the first Colombian child to be adopted by an Oregon family. The article about us that appeared in The Oregonian in 1976 led to the founding of Amigos. which now has more than 100 member families.

> MAXINE A. SULLIVAN, 769 S.E. 37th St., Hillsboro.

O DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The following adoption story takes place in the Dominican Republic. A summary of the adoption requirements and procedures, as well as the government authority in charge of adoptions is covered in <u>Gamines</u>. Singles as well as married couples over 35 years who have been married for over ten years may adopt, if they have no biological children.

Thank you for your letter concerning my adoption of Patricia Margarita from the Dominican Republic. Here is how it all happened.

I had one adopted daughter, Katie, who was placed with me at age 3 months through Children's Home Society in West Palm Beach, Florida. When I was ready for another child, I went back to the same agency for another Home Study. After waiting over a year for a placement, I felt that they would not be able to find a child for me, especially the age I was looking for, (between 2 and 6). Katie was 32 at this time.

I have a very close friend from the Dominican Republic, and had met many of her family members when they came to visit. I asked her if they might help me locate a Dominican child to adopt. They asked a lawyer friend of theirs who happened to know of a child who was in need of a home. She was 3 years old, and various family members were unable to care for her. At age 3 she had already lived in about 4 different homes. She was at this time living with her natural mother, who was about to send her to live with some people at the frontier, a very poor area of the Dominican Republic. She agreed to Pattie's being adopted and handed her over the same day, with all her worldly belongings in a paper bag. My friends sister-in-law brought her home until all the papers could be signed and the Visa approved. This was in August of 1980.

I went to the Immigration office in Miami and began procedures for filing my I-600. I had already had my home study, so proceded with finger prints, etc. Meanwhile the lawyer in the Dominican was handling the necessary forms and getting a passport. Her fee for this was about \$175.00. My friend's sister-in-law would take no money for keeping Pattie, only for medical bills, which amounted to around \$80.00. Pattie was very underweight and anemic, but otherwise okey. Siomara even enrolled Pattie in the private school where she worked and where her own children went to school.

After about 4 trips to Miami and many long distance phone calls, (about \$200.00 worth) and a consideral number of prayers to St. Jude, patron of hopeless causes, I had my I-600 approved and an appointment with the American Consul in Santo Domingo at 7:30 in the morning on October 30, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ months after Pattie was found.

I decided to take Katie with me to pick up her new sister. We left on October 29th, and were met at the airport in Santo Domingo by my friend's family, with whom we were to stay. We drove to their house for my first meeting with Pattie. She was so little and very shy. She is only 3 months younger than Katie, but about 12 pounds lighter and 3 inches shorter. Her hair had been cut very short as it had been in bad condition. Katie thought she was great from the first time she saw her. She became very protective of her, although Pattie did not respond. She appeared frightened. Even though she had been told what was to happen, she did not really understand. She was, however very interested in the 2 dolls and the other gifts I brought to her. We were to stay 5 days, and I hoped she would feel comfortable with me by the time we left.

The next morning I went to the American Consul for "my appointment". Was I ever surprised to discover that about 150 Dominicans also shared my appointment time to get a Visa. I was the only American there except for the Consul Officials, whom I did not see for about 5 hours. I sat to wait my turn. Finally a women came out to give some instructions, all in Spanish of course, and everyone began fumbling through their papers. My Spanish is strictly Sesame Street, so I waited until she was finished and went to ask if she spoke English and ask what was going on. I was told to just wait until Pattie's name was called. At last, after about 5 hours, I was called into an office and the consul offical stamped an approval on Pattie's Visa. All my papers were in order. I might note that they seemed more concerned that I had brought the required 2 copies of everything than what the actual papers were. A little advise to anyone who has not been through this, it is certainly worth an overseas phone call to the consul to find out exactly what papers are necessary and to make plenty of copies of everything before you go. Copy machines are not very available. I also learned that the Department of Justice (Immigration and I-600) and the State Department which issues the Visas through the American Consul in a foreign country, do not seem to be co-ordinated. They require different documents and also duplicate documents. Just when you are finished with the I-600, you start all over again collecting documents for the Consul.

Anyway, after waiting 5 hours in the morning, all 150 of us were told to return at 3:00 to pick up our Visas. We returned, were herded into lines, purses checked, walked through metal detectors, (a repeat of the morning) and then waited until our names were called to pick up the precious Visas. This took about 2 to 3 hours. Finally, with Pattie's Visa in hand, I went to see my 2 children, whom I had not seen all day. They had been cared for all day by my very good friends.

The following day I visited Pattie's school, spoke with her teachers, and was able to observe in several classrooms. Since I teach Kindergarten, this was a very good chance to see the education process in a different country. It was very interesting. Saturday we visited a beautiful zoo in Santo Domingo. The animals were all uncaged. Natural barriers, such as water were used to keep the animals in contained areas. The children really enjoyed this.

Sunday, we were to leave. I was a little uneasy about this as I could see Pattie had grown attached to this family she had lived with for over two months. My fears came true. Pattie screamed all the way from Santo Domingo to Miami except for a few short naps. We were sitting in the back of the plane, and everyone around us got up and moved closer to the front (Now I can laugh about it) She was okay when the plan landed in Miami. I think part of her fear was the plane itself. And perhaps when we were getting off she thought she would be back on familiar ground. It took about 2 hours to go through immigration and to clear customs. Then we had to find my car and drive 65 miles home. She was find throughout all this, however she began to cry when we pulled in the driveway at home. My close American-Dominican friend had fixed a good Dominican meal and soon Pattie and Katie were busy playing in their room. After a nice bath and a long restful sleep, she was fine except for an occassional period of wistfulness. The first full day she was here, we went to Burger King for lunch and she ate a hamburger and fries as if she had been eating them all her life. We had some problems with food, but now after 8 months, she is eating almost everything, taking into consi deration the usual dislike of vegetables that most children have.

As I had not adopted Pattie in the Dominican Republic, but planned to adopt her in Florida, I visited my lawyer 2 days after returning home. I soon learned I should have visited him prior to going over. It would have saved considerable time and additional expense. I found that the judge would not accept the I-600 approval or the Visa as proof of parental release, but that they would require their own release paper, as well as a family history and the death certificate of Pattie's father. It took 6 months to get these papers back from the lawyer in the Dominican Republic plus an additional \$180.00 in lawyer's fees. The adoption should go to court here within the next 90 days. I was also required to get another physical and a study by the HRS Adoption Services Office, even though all this was done through Children's Home Society to comply with Immigration requirements. As you can see, three departments of government are involved, all with their own requirments. What a lesson in bureaucracy!

The total cost, including air fare, lawyer, etc., will probably come to between \$1200 and \$1500. By staying with friends in the Dominican, I as able to save a lot of money, plus my lack of Spanish would have been a real problem without them

Pattie is really doing great. She is now speaking English. progressing well in school, and making lots of friends. Both my girls are just super! Even though they are only 3 months apart in age, they will be a year apart in school and have a big-sister little-sister relationship, due to size differences and present ability (Pattie has a lot of catching up to do). They get along great, although Pattie is quite jealous of Katie, the reverse of of what I expected. This is getting better now that she is beginning to feel that she will stay here forever.

Thank you for letting me tell Pattie's story. I would love a copy of your newsletter, especially if the picture and letter are used. Please send me information so I can subscribe. Maggie McGraw

Maggie McGraw 4781 Gladiator Circle Lake Worth, Florida 33463

Ed. -We obtained a list of lawyers through the U.S. Consulate in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, a few years ago while conducting research for Gamines:

How to Adopt From Latin America. The lawyers who responded to our letters charged fees between two and three thousand dollars. Ms. McGraw found a lawyer who was far more reasonable!

Recommended reading: National Geographic. "Comeback in the Caribbean-The Dominican Republic." Vol. 152, No. 4, October 1977.

HONDURAS

The following adoption story takes place in Honduras. Married couples and singles between 30 and 60 years may adopt. Foreigners may adopt children from newborn to seven years of age. For more information, see Gamines.

Thank you for your letter about our foreign adoption. My Father went to La Ceiba, Honduras, (which is where Andrew was born and where we arranged the adoption) for a month as a volunteer surgeon with the Christian Medical Society. They arrange this type of trip in many areas of the world.

Dad was there for a month and lived with a Honduran surgeon and his wife in their home. They were the ones who volunteered to locate a baby for us when they heard about our desire to adopt. I believe it was their original intention to find one through the doctor's hospital contacts. Apparently it is not extremely unusual for a woman to deliver and leave her baby at the hospital when she is released, if she can't afford to raise it.

About a month later, they called my Dad about one such baby, but he seemed to have some brain damage and they weren't sure about his prognosis. Then the hospital anesthetist told the Honduran surgeon that her maid was pregnant with the child of one of the sailors from the Greek banana boats and could not afford to keep the baby; we then waited for the baby to be born.

August 4th, Dr. Rodriguez called again to say that Andrew had been born July 28 and was healthy and the mother was willing to release him for adoption. You begin to see how very independent this adoption was.

I flew down and picked him right up from the mother's little shack, though I never saw her. Andrew and I stayed at the doctor's house for two weeks while I sadly discovered at every turn that there was no way to bring him back legally.

So the doctor and his wife agreed to keep Andrew until Randy and I could complete the stateside papers, which we guessed would be sometime in October. Meanwhile, Andrew's mother did record his birth at their courthouse and did sign an official release for us to give to the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

In La Ceiba, The Standard Fruit Company is the major employer. There are even two hospitals, one for any employee of Standard Fruit and the other (much less desirable, and Andrew's birthplace) for the rest of the populace.

The things we did when I came back to the United States wasted a lot of time because we didn't have any experienced organization helping us. But it would take forever to tell you all the deadends we hit. Finally, we went down to Detroit in person and found out about the I-600, fingerprint charts, etc. Then when we finally got it all together, our INS caseworker took a month vacation and they wouldn't assign his workload to anyone else in the meantime. But finally, in March, they informed us that we could go ahead and get Andrew.

Once down in Honduras we discovered that they require their own adoption before they will release a child. Our local contacts helped us, because of the doctor's wives was a friend of one of the social workers in the capitol and she begged the gal to fly to Ceiba and do a quicky home study.

Then the baby had to have a Honduran passport, and fortunately our doctor friend knew the Minister of the Interior so he hurried that part along. Even as I write this, I am reminded of how confusing the whole deal was, and what a miracle it is that we got Andrew home at all. Finally, we took the Honduran adoption decree, the passport, the mother's relase, the baby's birth certificate, and Andrew to the Embassy in Tegucigalpa to apply for his visa. Again, our friends helped us by finding us a translator and a place to stay.

INS couldn't find our papers in Mexico City. There was a mix up in the wording of the adoption decree. And, we had not been told about the Embassy required physical for the baby. Anyhow- it all jelled and we got out in the nick of time. I sincerely believe that only God could untangle the mess we had. You will probably agree when you read this.

The day Andrew's mother actually gave him over to my keeping, she wept a few tears and told the anesthetist that she was so happy that Andrew could "go to America and have a better life." That's one of the only things I know about her, except that she must have been very beautiful to have such a lovely child. And I'll always treasure her comment as a kind of commission regarding Andrew.

Char Ophaug 416 Water Street Albert Lea, Minnesota 56007

Ed. note: The preceeding article contains excerpts from a letter written by Char Ophaug. Two obstacles barred the Ophaugs from adopting their son and emigrating him within weeks of Mrs. Ophaug's meeting her son for the first time.

First of all, their son was not born in the capital city, Tegucigalpa, where the U.S. Embassy could have advised the new parents of the necessary documents and procedures for emigrating an orphan.

Nor did the Ophaugs reside in a city where the State Department of Public Welfare and the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service could have provided personal assistance. (Residents of Minneapolis/St. Paul are lucky enough to have both offices in the Twin Cities.)

Had our book been published, the Ophaugs would at least have had a handbook. However, Andrew is here, a testimony to his parent's perserverance and their helpful Honduran friends.

We are aware of one private lawyer who has handled international adoptions and has placed children from the Hospital de Occidente in the city of Santa Rosa de Copan.

Dr. Ruben D. Zepeda (bilingual)
Edificio Jimenez Castro #206
Aptdo. #1293
Tegucigalpa, D.C.
Honduras, Central America

Phone: 22-0006-3021

Recommended reading: Revista Maryknoll "An Orphan's Love." September 1981. The article describes the work of Sister Maria Rosa, whose Society of the Friends of the Children is the largest housing and educational program for orphans, public or private,

in all of Honduras. More than 1.500 children live in four children's villages which are affiliated with the Austrian based SOS Kinderdorf International. In Chicago, a group of Sister's supporters publish a newsletter on her work. They are:

Friends of the Children 2222 W. Byron Street Byron St., Chicago, Ill., 60618



- FREST

MEXICO

In our April-May issue, we mentioned four possible adoption sources which we had obtained from the U.S. Consular District of Cuidad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico.

One of our readers, Patricia Shirley, of F.A.C.E., Inc., P.O. Box 102, Belair, Maryland, 21014, sent us this letter on July 23, 1981.

Several weeks ago, I was in El Paso and decided to check out the two sources located in Cuidad Juarez. The first, Cuidad Del Nino, is no longer in existence. The second, Orfanatorio Guadalupe, denied that they had any legally free children for adoption.

My oldest daughter, who lives in El Paso, told me that recently an American, who lived in Juarez, and operated an orphanage there (which was regarded as one of the best-run orphanages in Juarez) was recently asked to leave the country of Mexico. His orphanage was turned over to the nationals to be operated. Valerie said that the talk around El Paso was that there was a negative feeling on the part of the Mexicans about having an American operate an orphanage.

I would suggest that perhaps someone from the adoptive parent group in El Paso be asked to investigate adoption sources in Mexico, including the two in Chihuahua you listed. I would have liked to do more, but lacked transportation to follow up several leads I had.

Ed. Noto: At least two U.S.-based adoption agencies place Mexican children.

HOPE International Family Services 421 Main Street Stillwater, Minnesota 55082 Telephone: 612/493-2446

Telephone: 355-7444

HOPE is licensed to place children in specific Minnesota and Wisconsin counties.

The Children's Service Society of Utah

576 East South Temple Salt Lake City, Utah 84102

• PERU

Following are excerpts from a letter to us by Harriet Markman, 2229 Woodlyn Road, Pasadena, CA 91104

We are working with Doctora Sonia Flint Blanck, Avenida Jose Pardo 1394, Apto. 1001, Miraflores, Lima 18, Peru. Telephone 465955. She provides a very detailed in-depth sheet which outlines all requirements needed to be met for Peruvian adoptions. She has been doing out-of-country adoptions for about four years, and has placed about 30 children. Her command of the English language is excellent, so potential adopters may write to her in English and she will correspond or call back immediately.

I would like to note that for residents of California adopting from Peru it is necessary that all documents be notarized, then verified by the County Clerk in the county in which the notary practices, and then certified by the Secretary of State's Office. (of California).

Recommended reading: The Times of the Americas. "Struggle to Survive in Poru."
July 8, 1981. The article, from AID's Agenda, states that Peru's birth rate is
4%. Nearly half of all deaths occur in the children under age 5, and half of
those deaths are related to malnutrition. Peru's health problems are more severe
than the rest of Latin America.



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN ...

We are a young couple from Virginia. My husband was born and raised here, but I was born in Germany. Last November 1980, we flew to Cali, Colombia to finally pick up our new adopted son Shanon. He is four years old now and he is the sweetest, most precious child we could ever want. We love him so much and he adjusted to us without any problems.

Adopting is such a wonderful experience, and even though we probably could have biological children, we chose adoption. From the time we started our homestudy it took nearly two years before we finally had all our paperwork ready to send to our lawyer in Cali, Colombia. After our homestudy was done it took us another year and a few months before we finally had our paperwork complete. It took about six trips to the Colombian Consulate in Washington, D.C. before we got everything right. That's because we were so inexperienced and had so little help. But we were at long last able to send our complete paperwork to Colombia. After that it took only $4\frac{1}{2}$ months before they found our darling son for us. We were on cloud nine.

Two months later we flew to Cali and picked up our long awaited son. We adopted him legally in Colombia. He is worth every single day of waiting and frustration we had to go through. Now we are planning on adopting another boy from Latin America, so we will have another son and Shanon a brother to love.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Marlene Lowery Rt. 4 Box 423 Mechanicsville, Virginia 23111

EASTERN HEMISPHERE

Global 2000, a U.S. government projection of the world in the next 20 years, suggests that poverty and high fertility will create enormous populations in many cities of the Third World. Calcutta, India, will approach 20 million in 20 years. Bombay, India, Cairo, Egypt, Djakarta, Indonesia, and Seoul in South Korea are all expected to be in the 15-20 million range.

INDIA

While some potential parents who have contacts in India prefer to adopt through the parent-initiated method, other prospective adoptive parents prefer to work through a U.S.-based liaison or agency. Our book, <u>How to Adopt From Asia</u>, <u>Europe and the South Pacific</u>, lists a number of child-placing sources in India.

A U.S. citizen who is a liaison for Mother Teresa of New Delhi is:

Kathy Sreedhar 2562 36th Street N.W. Washington, D.C. 20007

A list of adoption agencies in the United States which work with Cherie Clark, International Mission of Hope, can be obtained from:

Nancy Boucneau International Mission of Hope 10734 Tancred Street Denver, Colorado 80234

● KOREA

A session of the Cleveland Conference, "The Future Outlook for Korean Adoptions-Implications of the New Korean Legislation," presented an analysis of the adoption situation.

For every two Korean children placed internationally, one must be placed in his or her native country. In addition, those who wish to adopt Korean children must apply to an adoption agency in their state which hold a child-placing contract with an adoption agency in Korea. Not every state has such an agency.

A booklet which lists the adoption agencies which work with Korea as well as other countries is: Report on Foreign Adoption. 911 Cypress Drive, Boulder, Colorado 80303. The price of the booklet, with nine updates per year, is \$8.00

INDONESIA

The Sayap Ibu Foundation places children internationally to foreigners between the ages of 22 and 45 who have been married for five years and are childless. The address of this government agency is:

Yayasan Sayap Ibu Jalan Barito Jakarta, Indonesia

Recommended reading: <u>National Geographic</u>. "A Sumatran Journey." Vol. 159 No. 3 March 1981. The article explains the resettlement of 2.5 million people from overcrowded islands to the open spaces of Sumatra.

children to receive treatment in the United States. Additions: and to conduct homestadies for applicants residing in the state of Minnesota and to aid residents of other states to obtain international adoption information and referrals of adoptable children.

ARTICLE III

Membership, (add, in second sentence, "The board of directors, including the advisory board, constitutes the membership.) The changes were approved.

Nancy and Mark Cooper requested Advisory Board membership. This request was approved.

The financial annual report and the comparative finacial statement for the lst quarter was read and approved.

Meeting adjourned.

Refreshments served. Those present had the opportunity to exchange names and phone numbers for further networking.





CONTRIBUTIONS FROM READERS

We wish to thank everyone who sent pictures, letters and articles for this issue. And, we invite everyone to send us material, regardless of whether you are in the pre-adoptive or post-adoptive phase. Send us pictures, too. Black and white are best, but we can adapt color photos. We will return them, if you wish. Otherwise they will become part of our collection for persons considering adoption to look at in our photo books. We now have almost 100 subscribers. Please let us hear your comments, and do send us your letters, articles, new sources and resources and pictures.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Two agencies which have asked us to list them are:

Helene Gumerman, M.S.S., L.C.S.W. Child and Home Study
31 East Franklin Street
Media, PA 19063
215/565-1544

This agency is currently licensed in the states of Pennsylvania and New Jersey and provides service to adoptive applicants in the state of Delaware through the interstate compact.

Another agency is:

Reverend Carl Perry S.A.M.E. Box 2344 Bismark, ND 58502 "OPPORTUNITIES IN ADOPTION" conference in Cleveland, Ohio

The best part of the conference in Cleveland, was to regard the trip as a mini vacation for our family and to meet people with whom we have communicated by phone calls and letters. I now have warm memories of face-to-face conversations with many of my old pen pals, especially the independent thinkers who support parent-initiated

adoptions.
While the conference featured many excellent workshops on various facets of adoptions, especially parenting, you first have to have a child. Although the foreign adoption programs presented at the conference explained the adoption situation in several foreign orphanages, these programs cannot serve all the prospective parents in the United States who wish to adopt. Nor can they serve the children we are aware of in hundreds of foreign orphanages around the world. Most of these orphaned and abandoned children are likely to remain so unless they are reached by way of a "parent-initiated" adoption.

Heino and I left the conference with an even stronger sense of determination concerning parent-initiated adoptions: to publicize this method for the benefit of homeless foreign children and prospective adoptive parents who want to adopt children who are not being served by international adoption programs. As Maxine Sullivan once pointed out, these children are also "waiting children."

LOS NINOS INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

On Friday night, the 11th of September, 1981, we held our annual board meeting in the Holiday Inn - University area - Cleveland, Ohio.

The Advisory Board Members present were:

Betty Laning, ODS/ICCC, Massachusetts
Pat Sexton, ODS/FCVN ICCC, Pennsylvania
Barb Holtan, FACE, Maryland
Wilma Dorsey, Lifeline for Children, Florida
Bill Dorsey, Lifeline for Children, Florida
Anne McManus, HOPE International Family Services, Minnesota
Jo Spicuzza, Project Orphans Abroad, Ohio

Management Committee and Board Members:

Jean Erichsen, Program Director Heino Erichsen, Business Manager

Guests:

Nancy and Mark Cooper, Concern for Children, Ohio

The Meeting:

The proposed change of the name and the by laws was discussed and approved. The name was changed from Los Ninos International Aid and Adoption Center to Los Ninos International Adoption and Information Center.

This name change became necessary to reflect changes in the programs of the organization. The Articles of Incorporation - Article I (name change), Bylaws (name change) and Statement of Purpose, Article I: ...deletion - to aid foreign handicapped

NOTE: Due to our heavy volume of calls and letters, we are temporarily unable to answer long distance calls. If you must speak to Jean Erichsen personally, please send your name and telephone number by special delivery letter or Mailgram and I will call you collect.

PUBLICITY

An Ann Landers column printed in major newspapers around the United States during the month of August catapulted Los Ninos International into the public domain....

In answer to a plea for help from a couple who asked for addresses of adoption agencies, Ann Landers responded to "Empty Nest" with the names and telephone numbers of four reliable international agencies. Los Ninos International Adoption and Information Center was one of them. Our first call from a reader came from Cheyenne, Wyoming at 7:30AM on Saturday, August 1st. On the following Monday, the phone began ringing about every 10 minutes, from 7 AM to 10 PM, dialed by potential adopters from every state in the union. This rash of calls continued unabated for four weeks. Midway through this telethon, I arranged for an answering service to handle our calls. They answer the telephone from 8 AM to 5 PM weekdays and 8 AM to 12 AM Saturdays. While they have tapered off, we still get about 12 phone calls and 12 letters a day. And, since we are not funded or supported by a membership or a foundation, we can only provide information and home studies to individuals who are willing to pay our nominal fees for information and/or contributions toward their home studies.

Since our income is not sufficient to pay a secretary, we have devised four new strategies in order to save time for adoption research and writing as well as directing our adoption program.



Out-of-state callers requesting information are now advised by our answering service to include their questions with their book orders (99% are answered in the books anyway)



Post cards with a brief explanation of our information and services are being sent to the individuals who write us for information but fail to enclose payment to cover printing and postage, or even a self-addressed stamped envelope.



A new college-level, international adoption course by correspondence, "International Adoption Sources and Procedures" replaces the individualized portfolios and other services we formerly provided. This course is self-paced, with six lessons. A syllabus and one or both of the texts is included. Our home study clients are required to complete this course before they are given a copy of their home study. We are now offering this course to clients of other adoption agencies in Minnesota as well as in other states.

Upon receipt of a paid order, we will be sending out an Adoption Kit to replace our agency literature, which was being tossed in the trash by over half of the persons who asked for it. The kit will list sources and resources for domestic and international adoptions, both parent-initiated and agency-initiated. Our agency literature, on the other hand, described the need and the method for only international parent-initiated adoptions. And many people, particularly those who are investigating adoption for the first time, are not ready for such adventuresome complications.

Many people still believe that they can get a child if they can just find a U.S. adoption agency which will accept them as clients. We have received form letters and resume-type applications with pictures attached from desperate people with this attitude. They are disappointed when they discover that we do not handle their adoption for them; in fact we constantly encourage potential adopters to be independent and handle things themselves, once they have learned their state, U.S. immigration and the foreign procedures.

The Catalog
Trend Enterprises, Inc.
P.O. Box 43073
St. Paul, MN 55164

Free catalog of multiethnic, multicultural educational materials for children.

Publications and Educational Materials Catalog 1981-82

Free catalog of educational materials stressing the needs of Third World children as well as children's cultures through slides, posters, games, books and records.

The Winter Collection 1981

Cards, gifts, stationary, games, books and records are available with an international theme.

Both catalogs are available from: U.S. Committee for UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund 331 East 38th Street New York, NY 10016 212/686-5522

Maryknoll magazine

Reports the problems of the Third World in words and pictures. Published each month in English and Spanish editions. \$1.00 per year.

Maryknoll Fathers
Maryknoll, N.Y. 10545

The Times of the Americas

The national newspaper about all of Latin America. Published in English every other week. \$25.00 per year.

910 17th Street N.W. Suite 933 Washington, D.C. 20006

National Geographic magazine. The 1982 membership dues, Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 are \$13.50. Washington. D.C. 20036

Traveling abroad? Take Notes: This is a unique series of short, authoritative pamphlets on every country of the world. Concise information on culture, climate & clothing, health precautions, transportation, visa requirements, tourist attractions, etc.

-	,,,		n	4	,,,		O.	10	-11	٠,	DR	w						-	-		~	~ .			<u></u>							
0	s	1	6.	00)	••••	A	PTI dd	\$		4.0					A STATE OF		ailir	 g.	No	ad	dit	ior	al p	oosi	24769	is r					siling within the United States and
its	po	15 0	88 10	ons	. F	or	shi	ome	ent	to i	all c	oth	er f	orei	gn	cou	ntr	ies in	clu	de	ade	diti	on	el p	ost	age	as q	luo	ed	for	eacl	periodical or subscription service.
Se	nd	Su	bsc	rip	tio	n t	o:																									
1													N	AME	-	FIRS	T,	LAS	T												11	☐ Remittance Enclosed (Make
l	1	1	1		١	١	1	١	1	1	1	1		1		1 1		1	1	1		1	1	1	. 1	1	1	1	1	1		checks payable to Superin-
ı		COMPANY NAME OR ADDITIONAL ADDRESS LINE															П	tendent of Documents)														
L	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1					11			1	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Ш	☐ Charge to my Deposit Accoun
7	_	_			_		_	_		_			S	TRE	E	TAE	D	RES	5										100		٦1	No
ı	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	1	- 1		11		1	1	-1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
ī	_	_	_		_	_	_	CI	TV	_						_	1			ī	RT.	ATE	1			ī	z	IP C	:00	E	٦.	
ı	1	1	1		1	1	1	ĭ	ï	1	1	1	- 1	- 1		11	1			ľ		1	1			1	1	1	Ī	1		MAIL ORDER FORM TO:
_	_	_	_		-	_	_	_	Ť	_	_		_	_	_	_	_			•		_	-			-	_		_	_	- 1	Superintendent of Documents
PL	.E	AS	E	PR	IN	Т	OF	T	YP	E																						Government Printing Office
																																Washington, D.C. 20402

"International Adoption Sources and Procedures." A self-paced course with six lessons, college level. Useful to both prospective adoptive parents and social workers. Order the texts below for the course. The texts and course work will help the student locate child placing sources currently accepting applications and learn to coordinate their state and U.S. immigration requirements with those of the foreign agency, in order to legally emigrate and adopt orphans.

damine.

BOOKS

- Gamines: How to Adopt From Latin America, by Jean Nelson-Erichsen and Heino R. Erichsen, provides the first comprehensive, practical guide to adopting from 24 Latin American countries. The stories of once-abandoned children and their adoptive parents, as well as the names and addresses of over 80 child-placing sources, are included. Hard cover. 352 pages. Photos.
- How to Adopt From Asia, Europe and the South Pacific. by the same authors. Covers 24 countries: the names and addresses of over 80 child placing sources as well as their procedures. Soft cover. 126 pages. HAVALION CENTER
- (How to Adopt Internationally has been replaced by the books above.)
- Adoption Kit. An introduction to adoption, covering sources and resources resources for U.S. born as well as foreign-born children.

NEWSLETTER

Los Niños News. Edited by Jean Nelson-Erichsen. A bi-monthly report on the latest communications with official sources of adoption information in Africa, Asia, Europe Latin America and the South Pacific, as well as pictures and adoption stories.

BULLETIN BOARD SETS

- International Children. Written by Jean Nelson-Erichsen, this bulletin board set with 16 exotic bazaar booths feature children and cultural offerings from 22 countries/areas of the world. 16 page guide. Scenes range to 10" x 14". Bright and colorful, this cultural resource features Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, India, Korea, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.
- International Christmas. Children of 15 nations in national costumes promote interest in other lands. Figures range to 27". Tothe Tother total foot order lands. Figures range to 27". Tothe Tother total foot order lands. Figures range to 27".

 Prices include tax and Fourth Class postage with delivery in 252 weeks handling the lif you wish speedier delivery, send \$5.00 extra for First Class. A handling the Foreign residents, please add \$10.00 to Air Mail books and bulletin sets you wish many residents, please add \$10.00 to Air Mail books and bulletin sets you want to be set you will be a standard to be set you will be a standard to the set you will be you will be set you will be you

International Children, bulletin board set......\$ 6.95

International Christmas, bulletin board set......\$ 5.95

Irene Bethlee Hell Decatur Au N. New Hepe, MN 55428





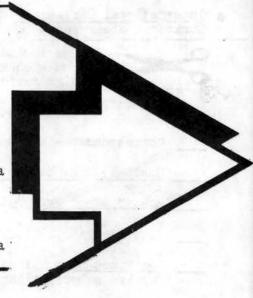


INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION INFORMATION CENTER
919 West 28th Street
Minneapolis, Minneaota 55408
612/872-4979

SONIN S

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Project Director/Editor.....Jean Nelson-Erichsen
Business Manager/Consultant...Heino R. Erichsen
Hispanic Affairs Consultant...Irene Gomez de Bethke
ADVISORY BOARD

Mark and Nancy Cooper, Concern for Children, Ohio
Wilma Dorsey, Lifeline for Children, Florida
Pixie Holbrook, John Rioux, Connecticut
Barb Holtan, FACE of Maryland
Betty Laning, ODS/ICCC, Massachusetts
Anne McManus, HOPE International Family Services, Minnesota
Anna Marie Merrill, ICCC, Colorado
Pat Sexton, FCVN, ODS, ICCC, Pennsylvania
Jo Spicuzza, Project Orphans Abroad, Ohio
Maxine Sullivan, Amigos, Oregon
Judith Vincent, Attorney-at-law, Adoptive parent, Minnesota
Kathy Zamboni, COAC of California





NEWS OF INTERNATIONAL SOURCES AND THEIR PROCEDURES AS WELL AS CHILDREN'S CULTURAL RESOURCES

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 3

COPYRIGHT BY LOS NINOS

June/July 1981

Newsletter of Los Niños International Adoption and Information Center, Inc. A non profit, adoption/guidance/research center licensed by the state of Minnesota

LICENSING FOR "PARENT-INITIATED" ADOPTIONS

Los Niños has been licensed by the state of Minnesota to conduct pre- and postadoption studies. Homestudies will be conducted in the client's homes. At the same time, the clients will complete an independent study, "Principles and Procedures of International Adoptions."

The independent study will be individualized for each client. This preparation, as well as guidance by an international adoption consultant, will assist the prospective parents in locating a child, communicating with the foreign adoption source and planning the adoption trip. We believe that this study is vital to successful parent-initiated adoptions.

Los Niños will provide this independent study to clients of other adoption agencies, regardless of the state in which they reside. And, of course, we will continue to provide information to the public on adoption sources and procedures in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the South Pacific.

STAFF

Founders of Los Niños are Jean and Heino Erichsen. Our third incorporator is Irene Gomez de Bethke, consultant on Latin American culture. Our newest addition is Joy Grogan, M.S.W., who will supervise and conduct homestudies. Our office is in—you guessed it—the Erichsen home.

When we adopted Tatiana and Rosana in Colombia over eight years ago, we saw many orphaned and abandoned children whom no one seemed to care about. On subsequent trips to Mexico and Central America, we saw many other children in the same plight. And further investigation indicated that this problem is common throughout the Third World.

What followed then, over a period of eight years, was involving ourselves with the local parent group and local adoption agencies in order to guide prospective adoptive parents through their adoptions, a short stint as overseas workers in Central America, a four year period of finishing our backelor's and master's degrees (we graduated together each time) writing books and booklets on international adoptions, and raising three very lovely children who manage to cope with us very well.

Los Niños began as a partnership with the approval of Minnesota's Licensing Division. By May of 1980, we had sufficient resources to incorporate, and then, the following spring, we applied for our license. Within ninety days, we were licensed.

We wish to thank our board members for their encouragement and support through the years. Thanks to you, we never gave up. And we wish to thank our subscribers, most of whom are prospective parents who need practical international adoption information and have placed their confidence in our center.

LETTERS OF INQUIRY

Your letter of inquiry is the most important document you will ever write. It can be mailed while your home study is in progress. In the space of two or three pages, you must clearly explain several important matters.

A. Identify yourself and your family.

B. Explain why you want to adopt.

C. Describe the child you wish to adopt.

- D. Tell how you will parent a child culturally and probably ethnically different from yourself.
- E. Interpret your state's preadoption requirements for them.
- F. Explain our Immigration and Naturalization procedures.

G. Note the date when your passport was or will be issued.

H. Tell them of your willingness to learn and to comply with their adoption procedures.

This outline is dealt with in depth in <u>Gamines</u>. Send your letter Air Mail, Special Delivery, with return receipt. Include International Reply Coupons purchased at the Post Office. Last but not least, include a picture of yourself with a hopeful look on your face.

Please be aware that you may have to wait 2-4 months for a reply. To shorten this time, ask the child-placing source to call you or your translator collect after they receive your letter--or call them six weeks after you have mailed your letter.

Or, if you really want to shorten your wait and you can afford to make at least two trips, get a copy of your homestudy, the FBI clearance notification, an I-600 form, (these last two available at the Immigration and Naturalization Office), and the documents generally required. Call or write for appointments, then make some personal visits. Dress as if you were appearing for a committee meeting with legislature in Washington, D.C. We have met many people who have successfully used this approach, most recently, the Coopers of Cleveland, Ohio, who searched for and found two little boys to adopt in Bogota, Colombia.

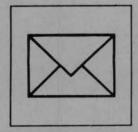
FOREIGN CONTACTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Many potential adopters today either can not or will not adopt through U.S.-based international adoption agencies. Nor do they wish to apply to foreign adoption agencies with long waiting lists.

However, since the lesser-known child-placing sources are off the beaten track, it is essential for you to find a bilingual contact in that locality. The contact could be a bilingual staff person at the adoption agency, an attorney, a liaison or a foster mother.

Other contacts who have been very helpful to adoptive parents in the past have been foreign exchange students and their families, exchange professors, missionaries, transferred business executives and Peace Corps volunteers.

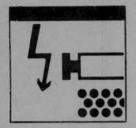
And how do you communicate? Letters, of course, are the least expensive way, followed up by a telephone call six weeks after mailing. But what if you can't make a connection? Local translators have spent days trying to call Barranquilla and Cartagena and have never succeeded in getting through.







A telegram with a return voucher for their answer.



Telex, which is about half as expensive as a telegram and faster. Locate a secretarial service with Telex equipment. Many of the foreign welfare departments, such as the I.C.B.F.s in Colombia, are equipped with Telex. Their answers will be typed back to your secretarial service. If it is in a foreign language, the operator will have to spell it to you over the phone.



Ham radio with telephone patch. Find an operator here who will scan for an operator near your child-placing source. Missionaries with "halo bands" and lonely U.S. expatriates have these sets, often with a telephone patch. With luck, and no static, you may be able to speak directly with your child-placing source, free. However, your message should be followed up with a letter from you, summarizing the conversation.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Immediate Relative Visas for Orphans

- IR-2 Child of U.S. citizen (can be an adopted child who has lived abroad with the adoptive parents for two years; no homestudy or fingerprinting is necessary).
- IR- 3 Orphan adopted abroad by U.S. citizen and spouse, or single U.S. citizen. (this visa is most often used for "parent-initiated" adoptions).
- IR-4 Orphan to be adopted in U.S. by citizen and spouse or single U.S. citizen.

 (this visa is used for children brought to the U.S. with a guardianship agreement or custody transfer).

"Parent-initiated" adoption - the prospective parent or parents obtain a home study from a licensed public or private adoption agency in their state of residence and take full responsibility for the rest of the adoption: locating a foreign child-placing source; handling paperwork and communication; appearing in person to adopt the child, or occasionally, arranging an escort service for the child; and, in addition, assuming any problems concerning the child's health, age or race.

"International agency-initiated" adoption - the adoption agency handles the paperwork, communications, and assign a child to a client through a child-placing agreement or contract with a foreign source. Agencies of this type may arrange for the child to be escorted to the United States, and they take responsibility for the child from the time a custody agreement is signed until the child is readopted in this country.

"Legal private foreign adoptions" (also called independent foreign adoptions) - these are private arrangements between birth parent and adoptive parents which are set up by an attorney or a doctor/lawyer team from the foreign country. If such an arrangement complies with the adoption laws of the foreign governments and is approved by the foreign court and family welfare department that have jurisdiction over the adoption, the adoption is legal.

Definition of Terms, continued.

"Power of Attorney" method - child is assigned by letter or collect call to the adoptive parents. Upon their acceptance, the child's birth documents and picture are mailed to the prospective parents along with a power-of-attorney form. The form is signed and notarized and authenticated and returned to the foreign lawyer to initiate the adoption.

"Tentative Assignment" method - child is assigned by collect call or letter but the adoption is not initiated until the adoptive parents arrive in the foreign country and observe the child.

NEWS AND UPDATES ON FOREIGN SOURCES

● INDIA. Uniform adoption laws do not exist in India. Generally, non-Hindus can be granted guardianships but they cannot adopt in the Indian courts. Confusion concerning adoptions in India may be explained by the fact that Indians speak 15 languages, including English, fortunately, and practise 8 religions, including Christianity. 14 states, 7 territories and 21 capital cities exist in India. Population is over 547 million with six major racial strains.

Los Ninos is aware of only three adoption facilitators in the United States with child-placing agreements in India. They are Missionaries of Charity, which according to their literature, place about 100 children a year, International Mission of Hope, which is currently not accepting applications, and Americans for International Aid and Adoption. According to our sources, these facilitators work only in the cities of Bombay, Calcutta, and New Delhi. See Report on Foreign Adoptions.

Singles as well as married couples may adopt from India, and "parent-initiated" guardianships are possible. A U.S. couple related to one of our board members recently completed the successful parent-initiated adoption/guardianship of a baby girl in New Delhi.

Only 185 children were adopted by U.S. citizens in 1979. Los Ninos intends to research and report on India in the ensuing months.

Recommended reading: National Geographic, Vol. 160, No.1. July 1981, "Bombay, the other India."



Young Krishna by Francis G. Hutchins, The Amarta Press, P.O. Box 202, West Franklin, New Hampshire 03235

A book to treasure, with many paintings and manuscripts never before published; 22 are in color. \$30.00

• KOREA. A new Korean mandate declares that U.S. adoption agencies with child-placing agreements may only place children within their own states. Four licensed agencies in Seoul, Korea, have child-placing contracts with adoption agencies in the United States and other countries in the Western world.

Customarily, these agencies located children and obtained their identifying documents in order to assign the children to adoptive parents and to obtain their visas. These children did not emigrate on adoption or guardianship decrees, only a custody transfer was necessary.

Some prospective adoptive parents are using the parent-initiated approach to adopt children in Korea, especially the U.S. military families. Civilians probably can too, provided they have reliable contacts in Korea who are willing to help them locate an orphan and coordinate the adoption with a Korean lawyer. A list of lawyers is available from the Embassy of the United States of America, Seoul, Korea.

In 1979, 2,284 IR-3 and IR-4 visas were issued to Korean orphans.

• SRI LANKA (Ceylon) A June 1st letter from Captain G.I. Fudge, The Haven, 127 E.W. Perera, Mawatha, explains that she will be going on furlough early next year. Unless a European is transferred in, adoptions will not continue during her absence. The Captain goes on to say that she only places infants. And the wait is rather long. (Weeks, months, years? - Ed.)

A lawyer with whom the Captain works will send the requirements, cost, and government policy to interested adoptive parents. His name is:
Mr. Parameshwaram J.P.Y.M.
11 Welson Street
Colombo 12, Sri Lanka

The official languages in Sri Lanka are English, Sinhalese and Tamil.
3 orphans were adopted by U.S. citizens in 1976; more recent figures not available.

LATIN AMERICA

- ARGENTINA. State and private agencies in Buenos Aires now say that foreign adopters must establish residency. Persons interested in adoptions in that country might inquire at the Embassy of Argentina in Washington, D.C., to see if there are temporary residency permits. In addition, foreign prospective adoptive parents may be able to find a child-placing entity to work with them in another of Argentina's cities, without as much hassle. *
- CHIIE. At the present time, the state and private agencies in Santiago are not processing very many adoptions due to pending procedural changes. However, it is still possible to adopt through private lawyers in Santiago and in other Chilean cities. *
- BRAZIL. Larger than the United States, Brazil has over two million abandoned children. Adoption procedures vary from state to state and even from case to case. Rio de Janeiro, where at least 150 tiny children are abandoned each month, has two ways to adopt. The easiest way to adopt is for the birth mother and the adoptive parents to present themselves at a Civil Registry Office where a final adoption decree is drawn up and attested to by the Civil Registrar. The second way to adopt is the procedure used for orphans already under the custody of the welfare department. These adoptions must be processed through a Minor's Court and be approved by a judge, which takes months.

Asociegade Filantropica O Ninho is a foundation which cares for and places children internationally, using the Civil Registry method. The directress, Joyce Blumer, is bilingual. Her secretary, who handles the documents and communications is Alice Lojan, 96 VanHouten Fields, West Nyack, NY 10994, Phone 914/358-6283. Infant twins, referred by the Blumers to a Minnesota couple, will soon be escorted here.

The government welfare of minors office in Rio is Fundação Nacional do Bem-Estar do Menor-Funabem. Rua Visconde de Inhauman 39, C.P. 3871, CEP 20,000 Rio de Janerio, R.J., Brazil. They operate an orphanage and oversee the adoptions for abandoned children.

Another possiblity for persons who have or can develop contacts in Rio de Janeiro is to send for a list of bilingual lawyers who handle civil cases from the U.S. Consulate General in Rio.* With the aid of a contact, a lawyer and a foster home, a baby can probably be adopted using the Civil Registry method.

News and Updates on Foreign Sources, continued

Sao Paulo. U.S. citizens, particularly the Peace Corps and transferred business executives, have used the "parent-initiated" approach while in residence.

Amelia Lalewicz, Catholic Social Services of Wayne County, 9851 Hamilton Avenue, Detroit Michigan, 48202, has formed child-placing agreements with several government-run orphanages in Sao Paulo. Her telephone number is 313/883-2100.

A U.S. citizen in Sao Paulo who has assisted Ms. Lalewicz and may be a source of information to others is Nancy Cameron, Nitriflex S.A. Ind e Comm., Caixa Postal 4596, 01000 Sao Paulo, S.P., Brazil, S.A.

Recommended Reading: de Jesus, Carolina Maria. Child of the Dark New York: Mentor Books, 1962. A dairy of a barely literate slum mother about her life in a Rio slum; this book was a best-seller in Brazil.

50 orphans were adopted by U.S. citizens in 1979. All orphan visas are processed through the U.S. Consulate General in Rio de Janeiro.

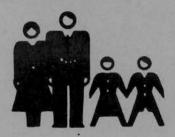
© COLOMBIA. Manuel Alvarado, Colombian Consul in St. Paul, Minnesota, arranged a meeting for adoption agencies to discuss the success of Colombian adoptions with a member of the Colombian parliament, Sr Mercedes Rojas de Rivera. Sra. Rivera interviewed several of the adoptive parents at the meeting through a translator from the State Department. Some of us brought our Colombian-born children with us. The Senora appeared pleased to see how healthy and happy they are. The purpose of the meeting, apparently, was to prove to the opposition in Colombia that these adoptions are conducted in a legal manner and that the placements are mutually rewarding.

We were able to bring up a point often overlooked during debates on international adoptions in Colombia—the I-600 Petition, the fingerprint chart, and the homestudy for foreign adoptions required by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. These steps should assure foreign governments that children cannot be adopted by by persons unable to physically, emotionally and financially support them.

Just before the meeting we pressed a portfolio into the hands of Sra. Rivera containing the I-600 Peition. a description of how a typical homestudy is conducted. and how foreign adoptions are coordinated with the state and the INS procedures. We also tucked in some pictures of happy adoptive families.







Colombia's Licensed Adoption Agencies

Prospective adoptive parents who inquire at the six licensed adoption agencies concerning healthy infants are now being told that the agencies give preference to childless couples. And the wait for healthy babies who are ethnically European or Mestizo (Spanish/Indian) is about two years.

Colombia's Licensed Adoption Agencies, continued

Potential adopters who already have children may still apply for healthy black or Indian children and infants as well as hard-to-place children: older, handicapped and large sibling groups.

BOGOTA

Casa de la Madre y el Nino (House of Mother and Child) Calle 48 #28-30 A.A. 28263

Bogota, Colombia

CRAN Centro de Rehabilitacion y Adopcion del Nino (Center for the Rehabilitation and

Adoption of Children)

Calle 70A #4-68 A.A. 56099

Bogota, Colombia

Telephone: 55-64-20

Telephone: 44-25-10

Bilingual Director:

Barbara de Vargas

49-87-86 Bilingual Director:

Ximena Lleras de Gutierrez

FANA Fundacion para la Adopcion de la Ninez Abandonada (Foundation for the Adoption

of Abandoned Children)

Calle 71A #5-67
Bogota, Colombia

Telephone: 55-79-75 55-79-95

Bilingual Director: Mercedes de Martinez

Fundacion Los Pisingos (Formed by the members of a hunting lodge. (Pisingo is a species of a little wild duckling)

Calle 13 #22-22 A.A.50090

Bogota, Colombia

Telephone: 36-43-70

Bilingual Staff: Maria de Mejia

CALI

Chiquitines (The Little Ones)
Calle 23 CN #3A-67
A.A. 4558
Cali. Colombia

Telephone: 67-12-36

Bilingual Staff: Dra. Leonor de

Villegas

MEDELLIN

Casita de Nicholas (The Little House of Nicholas)
A.A. 3800
Calle 52 #42-48
Medellin, Colombia

Telephone: 39-52-56

Bilingual Staff: Rose Maria Botero

Note: CRAN, FANA and Chiquitines place many of their children through child-placing agreements/contracts with adoption agencies in the United States and Europe. Casa de la Madre y el Niño places children by tentative assignment; the other agencies use the power-of-attorney method.

News and Updates on Foreign Adoption Sources - Colombia, Continued



Ministerio de Salud Pública

Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Famillar

INSTITUTO COLOMBIANO DE BIENESTAR FAMILIAR

The national I.C.B.F. in the capital city of Bogota, licenses the adoption agencies and administrates the I.C.B.F.s in the departmental capitals. It also has an adoption program. Their procedures include adoption by power-of-attorney. Proxy adoption with escort is also permitted. Single persons may adopt a child of either sex. And one or both spouses may choose to appear in Colombia. If a government attorney handles the case, there is no fee. Donations cannot be given, unless the government has a special fund for children's programs. The I.C.B.F. places children. For an application form and list of requirements write to this address. We do not have the name of the new director. Dra. Helena Gutierrez recently retired.

Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar

Avenida 68 #64-05 Apartado Aereo 18116 Bogota, D.E.; Colombia Telephone: 2-572-314-879 or 2-572-314-065

Interestingly enough, there is a second I.C.B.F. in Bogota, since Bogota is the capital of the department of Cundinamarca. They have their own application form and slightly different documents are required. Dra. Azeneth de Sanchez Telephone: 2-572-447-115

Jefe Asistencia Legal Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar Regional Cundinamarca y Bogota Carrera 50 #27-01 Bogota, D.E. Colombia

Barranquilla. "The Mystery of Barranquilla," sounds like a novel but isn't. Instead, when a prospective adoptive parent writes to Dr. Jose Ignacio Casas, I.C.B.F., Calle 61 #45-79. Barranquilla, Colombia, they receive a letter from a private attorney, Dra. Alicia Morales de Ramierez, either before or after the I.C.B.F. responds.

Social workers from the Hillcrest Family Services of Iowa, who visited with the I.C.B.F., were told that a government attorney will handle the adoption without cost to the new parents except for the minimal charges of court costs and passport (approximately \$100.00). The letter from Dra. Morales explains that she will locate a child, and handle all the international adoption procedures, including arranging an escort, for US \$4,300 and the child's one-way airline ticket.

Since the telephone numbers on the I.C.B.F. stationary are not working numbers (we tried to call them for days) no one is certain as to where to send their documents. Are they supposed to send them to the I.C.B.F. or to Dra. Morales? We have written to the U.S. Consul in Barranquilla to ask for a solution to this mystery, as well as a working telephone number for the I.C.B.F. We hope to report this in our next issue.

Two lawyers highly recommended by several local adoptive parents, are a husband and wife team, Drs. Beatrice and Alfredo Uribe, A.A. 3837, Barranquilla, Colombia. Sra. Uribe is presently finishing her thesis for her law degree entitled, "Adopting in Colombia." Their fee for locating a child and handling all the international adoption procedures, including arranging for an escort, is US \$1,500, excluding airfare.

News and Updates on Foreign Sources, Continued.

ECUADOR. Although the law states that both single and married persons over 30 may adopt, the best-known agency, FANN, does not accept single applicants. A further complication is that foreigners must obtain the approval of the Tribunal de Menores (Child Welfare Board). It sometimes takes six months or more to obtain the approval after the child has been assigned. The adoption must be finalized before the child is issued a passport to leave Ecuador.

Senora Isabel Noboa Romero FANN P.O. Box 10387 Guayaquil, Ecuador

Telephone: 340-993

Note: Several adoptive parent newsletters have reported that no inter-country adoption agreements have been signed between Ecuador and the United States. This is not at all unusual, since many foreign adoption agencies and welfare departments prefer to deal directly with the adoptive parents and not with intermediaries. In addition, child-placing agreements are not signed between countries but between two adoption agencies, one in each country.

29 children were adopted by U.S. citizens in 1979. Orphan visas are processed by the U.S. Consulate General in Guayaquil.

MEXICO

Rio Bravo

4





Juan Jose Ibarra, the 14 year old post-polio orphan that Los Ninos, along with several other organizations brought to Shriner's Hospital in Minneapolis for treatment over a year ago, has returned to Reverend Serna in Rio Bravo, Mexico.

Juan no longer needs crutches after two surgeries and the fitting of a leg brace. He is now quite fluent in English, which will be helpful to him in a border town like Rio Bravo. Since Juan will now have to support himself, his bilingualism and ability to walk without crutches will be assets in finding jobs.

Juan is the only orphan left at "La Amistad." All the children are either self-supporting or have been placed in Mexican homes. Juan hopes to come back to the United States again, as a permanent resident. He would like to go to school again, since he has only the equivalent of a fifth grade education. The family he stayed with in Minnesota are keeping in touch with him, should he need their help in the future.

Tijuana

A recent communique from the U.S. Consulate General in Tijuana, Baja California, located across the border from San Diego, California, states that 8 orphanages exist and many bilingual lawyers practise there. A list of lawyers who handle civil cases may be obtained from the U.S. Consular General.*

The government authority in charge of adoptions in the state of Baja, California is:

Desarrollo Integral de la Familia Allende #2 Fraccionamiento Moreno La Mesa, Baja California

30 orphans were adopted from the Baja in 1979; both the IR-3 and the IR-4 visas were used. Over the past three years, from 1977 to 1979, 376 orphans have been adopted by U.S. citizens from the country of Mexico.

News and Updates on Foreign Sources, Continued.







SOUTH PACIFIC ISLANDS

Kathy Zamboni and her family are traveling in the South Pacific at this writing. Professionals in the medical field, their tour will take them to the Cook Islands, Fiji Islands, and Western Samoa. Kathy has promised to send us reports about adoption possibilites in these islands.

Two Polynesian babies have recently been adopted by Minnesota families with the help of a Peace Corps Volunteer who recently returned home from Western Samoa. More babies and children may be adopted if we are able to find contacts in Samoa to locate and care for the babies while they await the arrival of their new parents.

Recommended Reading: Margaret Mead, Coming of Age in Samoa. New York: Morrow 1961
An anthropological study of family life in Samoa as well as an exciting
look into the lives of the Polynesians: how they view child-rearing and adoption.

* to obtain a current list of lawyers write this official address for all U.S. Embassies: U.S. Embassy, Consular Section, Name of Capital City, Name of Country. Some countries also have U.S. Consulates in cities outside the capital. In this case consult the booklet, <u>Diplomatic List</u> in the government documents section of the public library to find the names of these cities.

NETWORKING

We need your input. The cooperation of individuals and agencies and adoptive parents' groups, working together in a national network system, augments our resource of current data on foreign adoption sources. We trade information whenever possible.

ABOUT THOSE DISCOURAGING RESPONSES FROM FOREIGN CHILD-PLACING SOURCES....

The only truly discouraging response is the one that says, "Our government does not permit the adoption of children by foreigners. There are no exceptions to this ruling."

However, agencies who write saying they have "few babies," or that "adoptions by foreigners is difficult," do not discourage us in the least, because these statements are very subjective.

We have come to assume that the agencies see "few babies" available for adoption in comparison to those who are homeless but not legally free for adoption. And, they may see the messes that unprepared foreign adoptive parents get themselves into (no pre-processed I-600 for example) and assume that adoption is more difficult than it really is.

Seven years ago, the adoption agencies we researched in Bogota, Colombia made these statements and they are still making these statements. Yet, they place hundreds of children each year. A quick response to your letter of inquiry asking you to send the documents they require for an adoption are good indications that you will be assigned a child within a year or so, regardless of whatever else they have to say.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S DESK

Los Niños receipts during the first year were \$8,391.00
Los Niños expended during the first year \$1,100.00
(postage to answer inquiries and on-going adoption research)
Los Niños expended, for telephone costs \$600.00
Total expenses were, for printing, etc., \$6,010.00
The fund balances at the end of the year were \$2,400.00

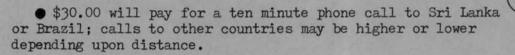
\$ 177

Staff "compensation" to the Erichsens for the first year were \$1,300 (hardly a fortune for over 1600 hours of time devoted to establishing and operating the center).

The addition of the adoption services creates new challenges and strains on our tight budgets, since Minnesota law does not allow the charging of fees during the first year of operation, but only the acceptance of donations.

RESEARCH FUND (tax deductible)

- A contribution of \$5.00 will pay for the postage for one Air Mail Special Delivery letter with International Reply Coupons enclosed.
- A contribution of \$8.00 to \$15.00 will pay for one page of translation into a foreign language.



- \$1.00 will pay for the cost of paper, printing and postage to send out Los Ninos'informational literature in reply to the approximately 30-50 mailed inquiries we receive each week.

 (PLEASE ASK INTERESTED PERSONS TO SEND \$1.00 AND A SELF-ADDRESSED LONG ENVELOPE WHEN THEY INQUIRE.)
- \$400.00 will pay for the expenses of a homestudy within reasonable distance from Minneapolis.
- •\$1,000.00 will pay for a fact-finding trip abroad to obtain information not forthcoming by phone or letter.
- \$1,800.00 will pay for the printing and binding of the supplement to <u>Gamines</u>, a book in soft cover titled, <u>Adoption Sources and Procedures</u> in <u>Africa</u>, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the South Pacific.

AT LAST!

AT LAST. GAMINES: HOW TO ADOPT FROM LATIN AMERICA is finished. At this moment, orders sent to Dillon Press and to Los Ninos are being filled. We apologize for the endless delays in getting this book out. When we signed our contract with Dillon Press two years ago, none of us realized what a complex task editing, rewriting, organizing and designing this pioneer book would be. After you read the book, please tell us what you liked about it. Writing is a lonely occupation. We would love to hear your impressions of our work.



FOURTH BI-ANNUAL "OPPORTUNITIES IN ADOPTION"

This conference will be held at Cleveland State University, September 11-12. We have asked Jo Spicuzza, one of our board members, to schedule a convenient time for Los Niños to hold its annual board meeting during the conference. We need YOU to make up a quorum.

Agenda

- 1. A brief overview of Los Niños' first year as a corporation.
- 2. A look ahead--how can Los Niños best assist prospective adoptive parents, adoption agencies and adoptive parents' groups throughout the United States?
- 3. A reading of the annual report.
- 4. Name change and change in the structure of the bylaws.

Los Niños has been invited to present a workshop at the conference. Our subject will be "The role of an agency in parent-initiated adoptions." A multi-media show and a question and answer period will be included.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

The International Concerns Committee for Children (I.C.C.C.), provides number of vital services. One publication, the Report on Foreign Adoption, is a must for prospective adoptive parents whose states require that they adopt through a U.S.-based international adoption agency. The booklet lists the foreign countries where children are available for adoption and includes the adoption agencies and adoptive parents' groups which facilitate the adoptions in the United States. The Report is soft cover, issued annually with nine updates. \$5.00 per year.

Adoption Listing Service and Family Register List is another publication for agencies and individuals interested in finding homes for children free for adoption in their native countries for whom adoption is the only alternative, foreign-born children in the United States whose adoptions have disrupted, and other children considered "hard-to-place." A picture and biographical sketch of each child, as well as data on families who wish to adopt is kept current in three-ring binders sent out to subscribers. \$5.00 per year.

Both of these publications, including a newsletter, are available from I.C.C.C. 11 Cypress Drive, Boulder, Colorado 80303.

ADOPTION-RELATED ITEMS - Announcements, notecards and other items are available from F.A.C.E. (Families Adopting Children Everywhere) P.O. Box 102, Bel Air, Maryland 21014. Asian dolls, costumes and other items are available from Patricia Sexton, ICCC/FCVN/ODS. Write for a list of items and prices from 1835 Troxell, Allentown, PA 18103

NEXT ISSUE...

We will start an adoptive family section in the newsletter. Board members, subscribers and friends, please send us your adoption stories and pictures. We are interested in "parent-initiated" adoptions which have occurred over the past year. Since we are a small paper, please try to keep your story within one page. We will also carry an announcement column; we ask our readers to obtain permission to print the names of the parents, children and countries involved and send this info to us.

Gamines:

How to Adopt from Latin America

by Jean Nelson-Erichsen and Heino R. Erichsen

Gamines: How to Adopt From Latin America provides the first comprehensive, practical guide to adopting from Latin America. This book relates the bittersweet stories of once-abandoned children and their adoptive parents. In addition, it includes the first up-to-date (guide for the general reader to U.S. and Latin American adoption laws and procedures as well as the names and addresses of child-placing agencies in 24 coutries, from Mexico to Argentina. Details are given in how to complete a legal "parent-initiated" adoption, as well as how to avoid gray and black marketeers, and much more. Hardcover. 352 pages. Photos.

International Adoption Sources and Procedures. By the same authors. A supplement to Gamines, it contains the names and addresses of adoption sources and their procedures in Africa, Asia, Europe and the South Pacific, as well as supplementary information. on Latin America. Softcover.

Los Ninos News. Edited by Jean Nelson-Erichsen. A bi-monthly report on the latest communications with official sources of adoption information in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the South Pacific, as well as pictures and adoption stories.

International Children. Written by Jean Nelson-Erichsen, this bulletin board set with 16 exotic bazaar booths feature children and cultural offerings from 22 countries/ areas of the world. 16-page guide. Scenes range to 10" x 14". Bright and colorful. this cultural resource features Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, India, Korea, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. (See black and white example below.)







	ODDED	TOTAL	THATA	-		VALUE OF THE PARTY	100000000
Val	ORDER	FURM.	ENCLOSED	LS	MY	CHECK	HOR

Gamines: How to Adopt From Latin America. \$12.95 plus 75¢ postage.

International Adoption Sources and Procedures. \$12.95 plus 75¢ postage

International Children \$5.95 plus 75¢ postage

(Foreign residents, please add \$5.00 for airmail)

Los Niños News. \$15.00 yearly for U.S. subscription (Foreign subscriptions, \$30.00 including airmail & packaging)

NAME.		 • •	• • • • • •	• •	٠.		•	• •										.21		•					į
ADDRE	55	 		8.00		100						100	800	10	٠	•	•	a		٠	•	•	•		1
CITY,	COUNTRY	 					•			0.00		ec•				•	•					•			



Irone Bathke 4649 Decetur Av. N. New Hope MN 55428



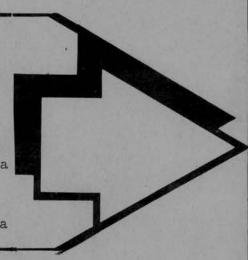


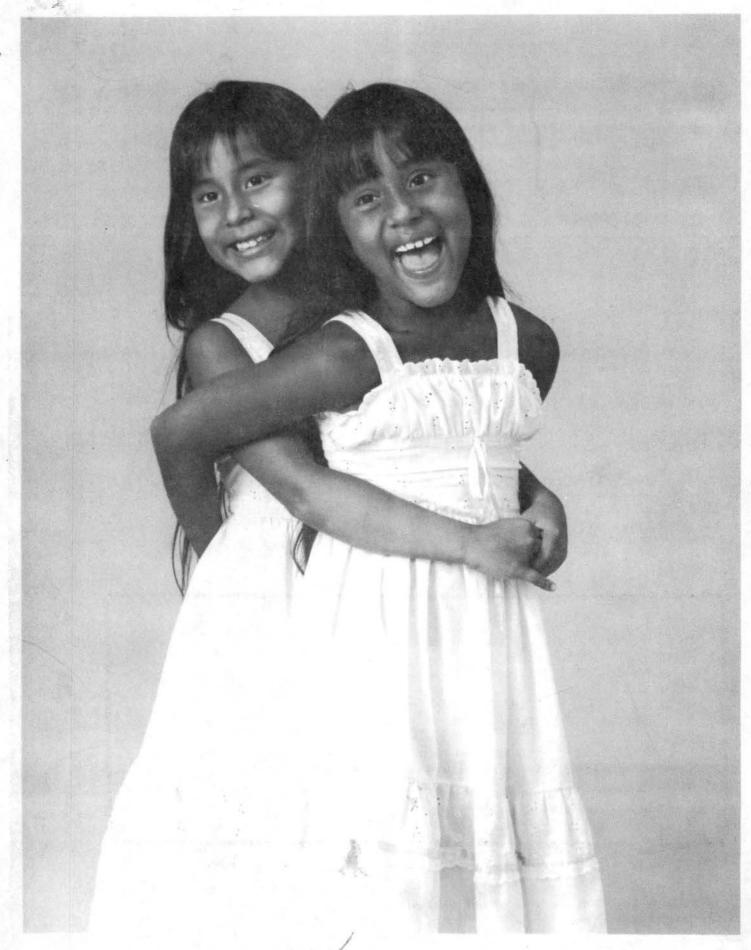
INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION INFORMATION CENTER
919 West S8th Street
Minnespolis, Minnesota 55408
612/8724-278

SONIN S

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Project Director/Editor.....Jean Nelson-Erichsen
Business Manager/Consultant....Heino R. Erichsen
Hispanic Affairs Consultant....Irene Gomez de Bethke

Wilma Dorsey, Lifeline for Children, Florida
Pixie Holbrook, John Rioux, Connecticut
Barb Houltan, FACE of Maryland
Betty Laning, ODS/ICCC, Massachusetts
Anne McManus, HOPE International Family Services, Minnesota
Anna Marie Merrill, ICCC, Colorado
Jo Spicuzza, Project Orphans Abroad, Ohio
Maxine Sullivan, Amigos, Oregon
Judith Vincent, Attorney-at-Law, Adoptive parent, Minnesota
Kathy Zamboni, COAC of California





LOS NIÑOS NEWS

LOS NINOS NEWS
News of National and International Sources and Procedures and Children's Cultural Resources
Volume 6 Number 1 Copyright by Los Ninos January/February 1982
Newsletter of Los Niños International Adoption and Information Center, Inc.
A non-profit, adoption agency and professional guidance/research center

DONATIONS TO LOS NIÑOS INTERNATIONAL

You can donate any amount to Los Niños any time of the year. Your tax deductible contributions help us to continue our research of foreign adoption sources. More than five hundred children now have parents because we discovered new child-placing sources and shared the information with prospective parents and adoption agencies. The children adopted from Colombia, Western Samoa and the Azores are our most recent examples. Los Niños International would also like to continue developing child-placing contracts with foreign agencies for prospective parents who cannot travel abroad.

Your contributions toward these goals will be appreciated by our agency, the adoptive parents, and most of all, the children who now, or in the future will be orphaned and abandoned. Donations to Los Niños International may also be considered an appropriate memorial gift.

	21 1000 1000	
TO LOS	NIÑOS INTERNATIONAL	
	ACCEPT THIS GIFT OF	
To help	find orphaned and abandoned child ospective adoptive parents.	dren and unite them

Cover Picture: Rosana and Tatiana Erichsen (foreground) 9 years old, during a modeling session with Photographer Nick Felice, 529 South 7th Street, Suite 498, Minneapolis, MN 55415.

Nick Felice Studio

EXTRA COPIES: please send \$2.50 PREPAID WITH YOUR REQUEST

TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGE
COLOMBIAN ADOPTIONS - Looking Back	6
LOS NINOS INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION METHODS - Our Adoption Agency: the first six months	17 17
News from INS Federal and State Income Tax Deductions Insurance and Benefits Fund Raising - A Children's Fashion Show. Publicity Book Review by Julie Eagleson, PLAN	18 19 20 20 21 22 22
BOOKS AND MEDIA	23

About your newsletter...We published our first newsletter in February, 1981 for four subscribers. This year we have over 200 subscribers. We will continue our policy of not soliciting advertisements and cluttering your magazine with irrevelant ads. If you wish to help us eventually break even on our printing and postage costs, please recommend our newsletter to prospective adoptive parents, adoption agencies, adoptive parent's groups, lawyers and social workers. Or, you can send them a subscription...

GIFT CER	TIFICATE N	AIL ORDE	R FORM
Enclosed is \$		35	
Please send Gift for one-year subscription	Certificates at \$15.	each	
Please send ce DONOR: Name	ertificates		
Address		State	Zip

PLEASE SEND US YOUR ARTICLES, LETTERS AND PICTURES. Deadline for the next issue is: Feb. 28

Your stories, concerns, information and pictures are special and unique. These contributions enable us to share your adoption and travel experiences, thus encouraging those who are just beginning their first steps into the world of adoption.

Please--don't forget to send us announcements of children adopted through our original research and writing. Each time Heino and I hear of a child adopted as a direct result of our efforts, we feel a great sense of satisfaction and a new surge of energy for continuing our work.



Minneapolis Star Photo by Jack Gillis

Mr. and Mrs. Erichsen holding adopted children, Tatiana, left, and Rosana, with son, Kirk, at right

Couples seek Colombian orphans as U.S.

By DAVID E. EARLY

Minneapolis Star Staff Writer

In February 1973 Jean and Heinrich Erichsen became the parents of Tatiana and Rosana, 2-month-old twin girls from an orphanage in Bogota, Colombia.

The Erichsens were
the first couple
from Minnesota to go
through the process of international adoption in
that South American
country.

Since then, 19 other Colombian children have been brought to Minnesota, five more are expected in the next few weeks and at least 70 couples are seeking to adopt children from Colombia.

Paul Eid, supervisor of a doption for the Children's Home Society, agrees that Colombia has become a popular place for international adoptions because of the availability of more than a million adoptable children.

"The word has just begun to spread that children are available," Eid says, "and we are getting more and more inquiries about Colombian adoption all the time."

For many years adoptions from Korea and Vietnam have been popular because the wars in those countries caused and brought attention to the thousands of orphans there.

Now the poverty that causes many Colombian parents to be unable to care for their children is making that country a rich source of adoptable children of all ages.

U.S. couples wanting to adopt children are turning to foreign countries because of the drastic drop in the U.S. birth rate.

Also, Eid said, orphanages and foster homes in

the United States are filled with children who are unwanted, called "children who wait," or who are not legally adoptable.

The "children who wait" are over 8 years old, have non-correctable handicaps, are part of a sibling group (which generally is not split) or black.

According to law one parent must go to Colombia to see and accept the child before adoption and must make arrangements with the U.S. Department of Immigration to bring the child back as a non-quota immigrant and to get a new birth certificate.

The country's best-known agencies, Casa de la Madre y el Nino (the House of the Mother and the Child, and FANA) do not charge for service but expect a donation from adoptive parents.

Most of the babies available in Colombia are warying shades of brown, or mestizo, a mixture of Indian and Spanish. There are few black or white babies but the agencies will try to provide them for parents who ask.

Organ for a United Response is a parent organization of more than 2,000 families around the world who have adopted foreign children. It assists others who wish to do so.

Betty Kramer, 3148 Humboldt Av. S., local president of the group, says the adoption process depends upon the type of child desired and how long it takes for the study of the couple's home by a social agency.

"A couple might be waiting for a child whose parents haven't even met yet," Mrs. Kramer said.

In the first step of any adoption a private social agency or the county welfare department coun-

birth rate falls

sels the couple about adoption and makes sure the home is financially and sociologically suitable.

Both Ramsey and Hennepin County Welfare Departments have a heavy backlog of homes to be studied, Mrs. Kramer said, but private agencies like the Children's Home Society, Lutheran Social Service and the Catholic Social Service in St. Paul

can handle requests a little faster.

The approximate total cost, excluding homestudy fee, is \$1,500 to \$2,000, most of which is air fare to and from South America.

When the first step is finished the couple may apply directly to an agency and begin the formal adoption procedure, which generally takes from three to six months.

THE ERICHSEN FAMILY'S NINTH ANNIVERSARY

(See preceeding page)

All five Erichsens appeared in court to re-adopt the twins in our state in 1974. After we were granted the decrees, we called the <u>Minneapolis Star</u> to see if they were interested in printing a story on Colombian adoptions.

The Star's reporter interviewed a local adoption agency and a local adoptive parent's group. Even though it contained a few inaccuracies (see circled sentences), the article and picture were picked up by UPI and circulated in newspapers around the country. As a result, many prospective adoptive parents were encouraged to apply in South America; the babies they adopted then are now in elementary school.

Some of these families have become friends of our family over the years. And how have their children fared? There is no physical evidence of the malnutrition they suffered as infants. Emotionally, they all appear well adjusted. They have taken the value systems of their adoptive parents as their own. And as yet, no one has been hurt by racial discrimination.

The creation of a family by adoption has been a source of joy for all of us. Our children are more loved and loving than we ever could have anticipated. If we feel any sadness, it is that they are already half grown. The time has passed much too swiftly.



August, 1981
Nick Felice Studio
Photographer
529 South 7th Street
Suite 498
Minneapolis, MN 55415

THE ERICHSEN FAMILY'S NINTH ANNIVERSARY AS AN ADOPTION RESOURCE

Nine years ago this February, Tatiana and Rosana journeyed home with us from Colombia. This issue is devoted to Colombia, in celebration of our anniversary as a family and as an adoption center.

LOOKING BACK....

- 1943 Casa de la Madre y el Niño, the world's first international adoption agency, begins placing orphans in European, Latin American and North American adoptive homes.
- 1971 Fundacion Los Pisingos is established.
- 1972 FANA is established.
 - 59 Colombian orphans adopted by U.S. citizens.
- 1973 178 Colombian orphans adopted by U.S. citizens--among them, Tatiana and Rosana. Also included, a little girl and a set of infant boy twins whose adoptions we facilitated for two couples in our neighborhood.
- 1974 344 Colombian orphans adopted by U.S. citizens.
 - We assist 70 couples in adopting children from Casa de la Madre y el Niño, FANA, and Fundacion Los Pisingos. We give the first Minnesota fiesta for 150 pre- and post-adoptive parents. And we donate our original research and writing to OURS (a local adoptive parents' group) for their books, newsletters and volunteer telephone answerers.
- 1975 508 Colombian orphans adopted by U.S. citizens.
 - Erichsen family lives in Belize, Central America and works on a pilot teaching project. We tour Mexico and Guatemala.
- 1976 639 Colombian orphans adopted by U.S. citizens.
 - Return to Minneapolis. Volunteer as the Latin American adoption coordinator at several local adoption agencies.
- 1977 577 Colombian orphans adopted by U.S. citizens.
 - (A decline in adoptions due to unfavorable coverage in the Colombian media. A temporary halt occurs while the government investigates adoption practices.) Traveling adopters--beware of reporters in foreign countries.
- 1978 601 orphans adopted by U.S. citizens.
 - We set a goal of becoming a licensed adoption agency and getting a guide book on Latin American adoptions published.
 - Need proper credentials for both goals. Begin graduate school program.
 - Kirk enters first grade.
- 1979 632 Colombian orphans adopted by U.S. citizens.
 - Tatiana and Rosana enter first grade.
 - We write <u>How to Adopt Internationally</u>, a booklet covering adoption procedures in 50 countries. (We're still receiving orders for it, but it's been replaced by our two new books.)
- 1980 763 Colombian orphans adopted by U.S. citizens.
 - Heino and I graduate from St. Mary's College with master's degrees in human development focused on international adoption sources and procedures. (We anticipate that our student loans will be paid in full by the time our three kids start college.

- 1981 A FANTASTIC YEAR FOR THE ERICHSENS!
 - 1,029 orphans adopted by U.S. citizens--from six licensed adoption agencies and welfare departments located throughout Colombia.
 - Los Ninos International is licensed as an adoption agency.
 - Gamines is published.

1982 - Looking forward...

- The general public will become more aware of the orphaned and abandoned children in many countries and the fact that they can be adopted internationally.
- Adoptions are on the increase in Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Peru in the Western Hemisphere as well as India, Mauritius, Taiwan the Pacific Island region in the Eastern Hemisphere.
- The concept of "parent-initiated" adoption will gain acceptance as more more prospective adoptive parents learn this method of international adoption. Each year the numbers of orphans adopted through this approach increases.

1974 photos: lower picture, Monica Dooner at 8 months

CHILD OF OUR HEARTS By Becky King for Marta

WE CAME
ACROSS THE WORLD
TO YOUR HIGH COUNTRY
OF LUSH MOUNTAINS AND FLOWERS
AND GOLDEN PEOPLE OF WARMTH & CHARM
TO FIND YOU.

WE SAW YOU
IN A STONE-WALLED ROOM
TINY CHILD OF SADNESS
QUIET DARK EYES MORE KNOWING
THAN YOUR BRIEF MONTHS
AND WE TOUCHED YOU.

WE FELT
OVERWHELMING JOY
TENDERNESS AND AWE
AN ACHE OF LOVE SUCH AS
WE HAVE NEVER KNOWN
AND WE HELD YOU.

WE CAME
BACK ACROSS THE EARTH
HIGH THROUGH THE NIGHT SKIES
CRADLING OUR TREASURE
AND WE LOVED YOU.

WE PRAY
WE ARE WORTHY OF THE LIFE
ENTRUSTED TO OUR CARE
PERHAPS NOT CHILD OF OUR BODIES
BUT TRULY CHILD OF OUR HEARTS
AND WE ARE HAPPY.



Marta King, 7 mos. Daughter of Dennis and Becky King, from Colombia.



FIVE METHODS OF ADOPTION IN LATIN AMERICA

1. U.S. parents locate a child, initiate the adoption procedures, and stay until they can legally leave the country with the adopted child.

After writing letters of inquiry and then calling ahead to make appointments, adopters using this method may take their application dossiers abroad and personally visit adoption sources until they find one which will accept their application.

This method is also used by Casa de la Madre y el Nino of Bogota as well as at least one welfare department, the I.C.B.F. in Manizales, in which they tentatively assign a child by phone or letter. Adoption proceedings do not take place until the adopters, the social worker, and (if old enough) the child are satisfied that the placement will be successful.

- U.S. parents assign a power-of-attorney to a Latin American attorney who initiates the adoption; the parents present themselves in the Latin American country to complete the remaining adoption procedures. If the adoptive parents must be interviewd by a judge or other government official, obtain the child's passport or U.S. visa, their stay abroad is usually two weeks. However, if the attorney has accomplished all the necessary tasks before they arrive, they may only need to stay a day or two.
- 3. Proxy adoptions or proxy permanent guardianships are also initiated by a Latin American attorney who has been assigned a power of attorney by pre-adoptive parents. The assigned child is escorted to his or her adoptive family abroad.
- 4. The orphan leaves the Latin American country under a permanent guardianship agreement which is based on the prospective parents' promise to adopt the child in their country.
- 5. Formal adoption preceded by a permanent guardianship agreement may be necessary in some Latin American countries. Guardianships are sometimes arranged for adopters who do not meet the age or length of marriage or residency requirements for an adoption in a particular country. When the adoptive parents fill the requirements, the Latin American judge grants a final adoption decree.

The October 1981 Background Notes on Colombia, reprinted for you on the following pages, answers the adopter's most commonly asked questions:

Ethnicity of the people U.S. Colombian relations

Geography Government

Cities 16 Colombian holidays (offices close)

Climate Travel advisory
History Reading list

Government Officials U.S. Diplomatic Officials in

Political conditions Colombia

See Map.

White circles indicate 23 cities with populations over 100,000. An I.C.B.F. (welfare department) probably exists in each of them. We have already corresponded with about 15 of them. Some, like Santa Marta, Monteria and Pasto, send their orphaned and abandoned children to I.C.B.F.s or to licensed adoption agencies in Bogota, Cali and Medellin. Most of them, however, have their own adoption programs. Government or private lawyers handle the adoption for the I.C.B.F.s in Bogota, Barranquilla, Bucaramanga, Cartegena, Cali, Florencia, Ibague, Neiva, Pereira, Popayan, and Sincelejo.

Licensed adoption agencies in Colombia are:

BOGOTA

- Ayudame (newly licensed, places with European applicants only)
- Casa de la Madre y el Niño
- CRAN
- FANA
- Fundacion Los Pisingos

CALI

• Chiquitines

MEDELLIN

• Casita de Nicolas

Note: See Gamines for their addresses and telephone numbers.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADOPTIVE PARENTS

More adoption sources exist in Colombia than in any other country in the world. And the requirements for adoptive parents can be fulfilled by most prospective parents. One spouse must be over 25 and 15 years older than the adopted child. There is no maximum age limit for adopters. Singles as well as divorced persons may adopt. There are no restrictions on the religion, health of the adopters, or number of children already in the family. These requirements are applied by the I.C.B.F.s.

Be aware, however, that the seven private adoption agencies in Colombia apply requirements of their own on a very individual basis. And childless couples are often given priority.

background

Colombia



United States Department of State Bureau of Public Affairs

October 1981



Official Name: Republic of Colombia

PROFILE

People

NATIONALITY: Noun and adjective-Colombian(s). POPULATION (1981): 27.03 million. ANNUAL GROWTH RATE: 2.1%. ETHNIC GROUPS: 58% mestizo, 20% caucasian, 14% mulatto, 4% African descent, 3% mixed African-Indian, 1% Indian. RELIGION: 95% Roman Catholic. LANGUAGE: Spanish. EDUCATION: Years compulsory-5 in primary school. Attendance-77% of children enter, but only 28% finish primary school. Literacy-81% (1970). HEALTH: Infant

mortality rate-65/1,000. Life expectancy-63 yrs. WORK FORCE (9.0 million): Agriculture-27%. Industry-21%.

Geography

AREA: 1.14 million sq. km. (440,000 sq. mi.); about the size of Texas and New Mexico combined. CITIES: Capital-Bogotá (pop. 4.3 million). Other cities-Cali, Barranquilla, Medellin. TERRAIN: Flat coastal areas, central highlands, mountains, and eastern plains. CLIMATE: Tropical on coast and eastern plains, cooler in highlands.

Government

TYPE: Republic. CONSTITUTION: 1886 (amended). INDEPENDENCE: July 20,

BRANCHES: Executive-president (chief of state and head of government). Legislative-bicameral congress. Judicial-supreme court.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUBDIVISIONS: 23 departments, 3 intendencias, 5 comisarias, Bogotá Federal District.

POLITICAL PARTIES: Liberal Party, Conservative Party, National Popular Alliance (ANAPO), National Opposition Union (UNO), Front for the Unity of the People (FUP), National Independent Labor Movement (MOIR), Communist Party, Socialist Workers Party. SUFFRAGE: Universal over 18.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET (1980): \$4.3 billion.

DEFENSE (1980): 9.3% of government

FLAG: Top half yellow, bottom half blue and red stripes of equal width.

Economy

GNP (1980): \$30.6 billion. ANNUAL GROWTH RATE: 10.8% (1980 real GDP growth-4%). PER CAPITA INCOME: \$1,112. AVG. INFLATION RATE (1980):

NATURAL RESOURCES: Petroleum, natural gas, coal, iron ore, nickel, gold, copper, emeralds.

AGRICULTURE (23% of GNP): Products-coffee, bananas, rice, corn, sugarcane, flowers, cotton, tobacco. Land-5%.

INDUSTRY (22% of GNP): Textiles, processed goods, clothing and footwear, beverages, chemicals, metal products, ce-

TRADE (1980): Exports-\$3.8 billion: coffee, gems, bananas, flowers, cement, clothing, yarn. Major markets-US, FRG, Venezuela. Imports-\$5.4 billion: crude oil, petroleum products, transportation equipment, wheat, communications equipment. Major suppliers-US, Japan, FRG.

OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATE (Sept.

1981): 55.5 pesos = US\$1.

FISCAL YEAR: Calendar year. MEMBERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: UN and most of its specialized agencies, Organization of American States (OAS), General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD or World Bank), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Andean Pact, International Coffee Organization (ICO), Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), Latin American Economic System (SELA), INTELSAT.



PEOPLE

Colombia is the fourth most populous nation in Latin America after Brazil, Mexico, and Argentina. Movement from rural to urban areas has been heavy. Persons living in urban areas increased from 40% of the total population in 1951 to about 69% by the late 1970s. A large population of young people are dependent upon Colombia's educational and health facilities. The nine eastern departments and territories, about 54% of Colombia's area, have less than 3% of the population and a density of fewer than one person per square kilometer (two persons per square mile). The country has 23 cities with 100,000 or more inhabitants.

The diversity of ethnic origins results from the intermixture of indigenous Indians, Spanish colonists, and African slaves. Today, only about 1% of the people can be identified as fully Indian on the basis of language and customs. Few foreigners have immigrated to Colombia. In 1979, more than an estimated 25,000 U.S. citizens were living in Colombia.

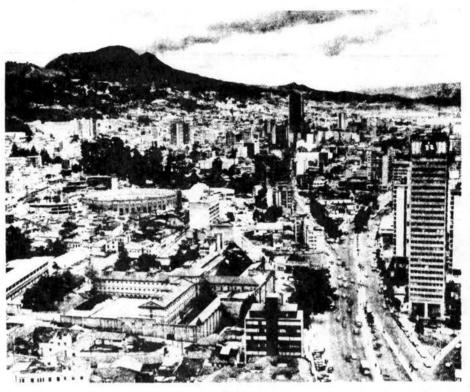
GEOGRAPHY

Located in the northwest corner of South America, Colombia is bordered by Venezuela, Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, and Panama. It is the continent's fourth largest country and has a coastline of more than 1,448 kilometers (900 mi.) on the Pacific Ocean and 1,760 kilometers (1,100 mi.) on the Caribbean Sea.

The Andes Mountains enter Colombia in the southwest and fan out into three distinct ranges running through the country from southwest to north and northeast. Colombia has three main topographical regions:

- Flat coastal areas broken by the high Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta mountain range;
 - · Central highlands; and
- Sparsely settled eastern plains (llanos) drained by tributaries of the Orinoco and Amazon Rivers.

The climate varies from tropical heat on the coast and the eastern plains to cool, springlike weather with frequent light rains in the highlands. The highlands experience two dry seasons, from December to February and from June to August. Bogotá is 2,630 meters (8,630 ft.) above sea level. The average daily high temperature is between 18°C and 20°C (64°F-68°F); lows range from 9°C to 11°C (48°F-51°F).



Downtown Bogotá is a pleasant mix of traditional and modern architecture.

HISTORY

During the pre-Colombian period, the area now known as Colombia was inhabited by Indians, mostly primitive hunters or nomadic farmers. The Chibchas, who lived in the Bogotá region, attained the highest level of civilization among the various-Indian groups. Spaniards first sailed along the north coast of Colombia as early as 1500, but the first permanent settlement, at Santa Marta, was not established until 1525.

In 1549, the area was established as a Spanish colony with the capital at Bogotá. In 1717, Bogotá became the capital of the Viceroyalty of New Granada, which included what is now Venezuela, Ecuador, and Panama. The city became one of the principal administrative centers of the Spanish possessions in the New World, along with Lima and Mexico City. On July 20, 1810, the citizens of Bogotá created the first representative council to defy Spanish authority. Total independence was proclaimed in 1813, and in 1819 the Republic of Greater Colombia was formed.

The Republic

After the defeat of the Spanish Army, the republic included all the territory of the former viceroyalty. Simon Bolívar was elected first president and Francisco de Paula Santander vice president. In 1822 the United States became one of the first countries to recognize the new republic and to establish a resident diplomatic mission. In 1830 Ecuador and Venezuela withdrew from the republic and became independent states. Panama remained part of Colombia until 1903.

Two political parties that grew out of conflicts between the followers of Bolívar and Santander, the Conservatives and the Liberals have dominated Colombian politics. Bolívar's supporters, who later formed the nucleus of the Conservative Party, advocated a strong centralized government, a close alliance between the government and the Roman Catholic Church, and a limited franchise. Santander's followers, forerunners of the Liberals, wanted a decentralized government, state rather than church control over education and other civil matters, and a broadened suffrage. Those were the principal topics of political debate throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, although today they are no longer active issues. The Conservatives established a highly centralized government. The Liberals eventually won universal adult suffrage and a large measure of separation of church and state, although the Catholic Church retains some important powers such as the right to give religious instruction in all public schools.

No vice president as such exists. Every 2 years Congress elects a "designate" from the president's party to become acting president in the event of the president's ill health, death, or resignation. If the president's inability to serve is permanent, the acting president must call new elections within 3 months. The designate has no duties, receives no salary, and may hold other public or private positions while serving as designate. If Congress fails to elect a designate and the president is unable to serve, the foreign minister becomes acting president.

Colombia's bicameral Congress consists of a 113-member Senate and a 199-member Chamber of Representatives, all elected on the basis of proportional representation. Members and alternates are elected at the same time as the president but may be reelected indefinitely. If a member of Congress is absent temporarily or permanently, the seat is taken by the alternate. Congress meets annually from July 20 to December 16, and the president may call it into special session at other times.

Judicial power is exercised by the 20-member Supreme Court of Justice and subordinate courts. Half the justices of the Supreme Court are elected by the Senate and half by the Chamber of Representatives from lists submitted by the president. The justices serve 5-year terms and may be reelected. Lower court judges are elected by the Supreme Court.

The country is divided into 23 departments, the Federal District of Bogotá, 3 intendencias, and 5 comisarias (territories of lesser rank not having local legislatures). The presidentially appointed governors and mayors are considered agents of the national government, although their powers are somewhat limited by the elected departmental legislatures and municipal councils. The latter two bodies are elected to 2-year terms.

Principal Government Officials

President—Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala Ministers

Agriculture and Livestock—Luis Fernando Londono Capurro Communications—Antonio Abello Roca Economic Development—Gabriel Melo Guevara

Education—Carlos Alban Holguin Finance—Eduardo Wiesner Duran Foreign Affairs—Carlos Lemos Simmonds

Government—Jorge Mario Eastman Justice—Felio Andrade Maprique Labor—Maria Estela Sanin de Aldana Mines and Energy—Carlos Rodado Noriega

National Defense—Gen. Luis Carlos Camacho Levva

Public Health—Alfonso Jaramillo Salazar

Public Works-Enrique Vargas Ramfrez

Ambassador to the United States— Fernando Gaviria

Ambassador to the United Nations— Indalecio Lievano Aguirre Ambassador to the Organization of

American States—Carlos Bernal Tellez

Colombia maintains an embassy in the United States at 2118 Leroy Place NW., Washington, D.C. 20008 (tel. 202–387–8338). Colombian Consulates are located in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Miami, Orlando, Tampa, Chicago, New Orleans, Baltimore, Boston, Detroit, New York, Philadelphia, San Juan, and Houston, Mirmapolis & St. Paul.

POLITICAL CONDITIONS

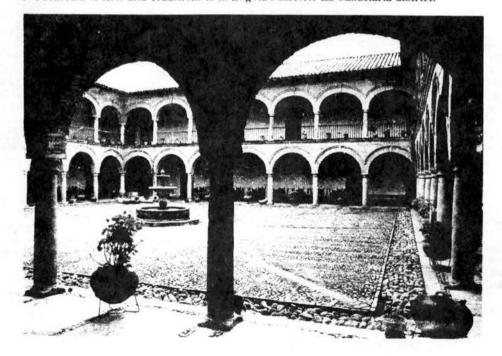
The April 1974 elections marked a return to normal competition for the presidency; candidates from all parties were permitted to run. Alfonso Lopez Michelsen, the Liberal Party candidate, won with 55% of the vote, and the Liberals gained a large working majority in both houses of the Colombian Congress. The Lopez administration attempted to solve Colombia's broad

economic problems—inflation, unemployment, and income distribution—and acted to restructure Colombia's tax system, end a variety of government subsidies, and cut government spending.

The congressional elections of February 1978 and the presidential election in June of that year illustrated the continuing dominance of the Liberal and Conservative Parties. The two parties together won 305 of the 311 congressional seats. ANAPO did not contest the elections as a unified organization and lost all the 22 seats it had retained in the 1974 elections. Several radical leftist parties and coalitions participated in the election and won six seats in Congress. In an unexpectedly close presidential contest, Liberal Julio Cesar Turbay Avala was elected president with 49.5% of the vote, while Conservative Belisario Betancur won 46.6%. Perhaps the most striking feature of the 1978 elections was the high rate of voter abstention, particularly among city dwellers and the poor. The 1980 midterm elections confirmed this trend.

Neither major candidate offered many decisive positions on significant issues in the 1978 presidential campaign, although both promised to crusade against the breakdown of public order. Early in his administration, Turbay took steps to combat terrorism. Backed by a security statute giving the military jurisdiction over certain crimes, the Turbay administration has arrested and tried many suspected subversives. Success in the antisubversive campaign has

The Museum of Arts and Traditions is in Bogotá's historic La Candelaria district.



been limited mainly to the urban areas and has triggered criticism of the government for its methods.

The greatest challenge facing the Colombian political system, traditionally controlled by the Colombian elite, is to gain broader support in the population. The success of the democratic system in Colombia depends especially on support by the middle class and the poor, most of whom recently have demonstrated apathy toward the political system. Elections are scheduled for spring of 1982.

Colombia, unlike many Latin American countries, established early a solid tradition of civilian government and regular free elections. The military has seized power only three times in Colombian history—in 1830, 1854, and 1953. On the first two occasions, the military dictator was overthrown and civilian rule restored in less than a year. Colombia has had only one full-fledged civilian dictatorship (1884–94).

Despite Colombia's commitment to democratic institutions, its history has suffered periods of violent conflict. Two particularly tragic civil wars grew out of bitter rivalry between the Conservative and Liberal Parties. The War of a Thousand Days (1899–1902) cost an estimated 100,000 lives. During *La Violencia* ("the violence") of the 1940s and 1950s, 100,000–200,000 people were killed.

A military coup in 1953 brought General Gustavo Rojas Pinilla to power. Initially, Rojas enjoyed wide popular support, partly for his success in reducing La Violencia. When he did not promptly restore democratic government, however, he was overthrown in 1957 by the military with the backing of both political parties, and a provisional government took office.

The April 1974 elections marked a return to normal competition for the presidency; candidates from all parties were permitted to run. Alfonso Lopez Michelsen, the Liberal Party candidate, won with 55% of the vote, and the Liberals gained a large working majority in both houses of the Colombian Congress. The Lopez administration attempted to solve Colombia's broad

economic problems—inflation, unemployment, and income distribution—and acted to restructure Colombia's tax system, end a variety of government subsidies, and cut government spending.



Shoppers can choose between the modern, indoor shopping center (Unicentro—above) and quaint shops in Bogotá's La Candelaria district (below).

The congressional elections of February 1978 and the presidential election in June of that year illustrated the continuing dominance of the Liberal and Conservative Parties. The two parties together won 305 of the 311 congressional seats. ANAPO did not contest the elections as a unified organization and lost all the 22 seats it had retained in the 1974 elections. Several radical leftist parties and coalitions participated in the election and won six seats in Congress. In an unexpectedly close presidential contest, Liberal Julio Cesar Turbay Avala was elected president with 49.5% of the vote, while Conservative Belisario Betancur won 46.6%. Perhaps the most striking feature of the 1978 elections was the high rate of voter abstention, particularly among city dwellers and the poor. The 1980 midterm elections confirmed this trend.

U.S.-COLOMBIAN RELATIONS

Colombia has long maintained close and friendly relations with the United States. The record of U.S.-Colombian relations has been one of constructive cooperation. For example, the governments of both countries are concerned over the flow of illicit narcotics, especially cocaine, from Colombia to the United States. The efforts of the U.S. and Colombian Governments to combat this growing traffic have increased. The 1980 budget reflected an eightfold increase in U.S. expenditures for the effort to combat the illicit drug flow from Colombia to the United States.



A longstanding problem between the United States and Colombia was the status of three small, uninhabited islands in the Caribbean. It was finally resolved in 1981 with the ratification of the Quita Sueno Treaty, in which the United States renounced all claims to the islands without prejudicing the claims of third parties.

GOVERNMENT

The 1886 constitution has been amended frequently and substantially. The most recent major revisions were approved in December 1979. Freedom of religion, speech, and assembly, along with other basic rights, is guaranteed by the constitution. The national government has separate executive, legislative, and judicial branches. Elected for a 4-year term, the president may not serve consecutive terms. The president's extensive powers include appointing cabinet ministers and departmental and territorial governors without congressional confirmation.

LOCAL HOLIDAYS

Offices, banks, and businesses may be closed on the following holidays:

	69
New Year's Day	January 1
Epiphany	January 6
St. Joseph's Day	March 19
Holy Thursday	March/April*
Good Friday	March/April*
Labor Day	May 1
Ascension Day	May*
Corpus Christi	June*
Feast of the Sacred Heart	June*
Saints Peter and Paul	June 29
Independence Day	July 20
Battle of Boyaca	August 7
Assumption Day	August 15
Columbus Day	October 12
All Saints' Day	November 1
Independence of Cartagena	November 11
Feast of the Immaculate	
Conception	December 8
Christmas Day	December 25

*Exact date varies.

TRAVEL NOTES

Climate and clothing—Climatic variations depend on altitude. Knits and lightweight woolens are suitable in Bogotá.

Customs—A passport and a tourist card, which can be obtained from the Colombian Embassy or nearest consulate, are required of visitors. US citizens may also obtain tourist cards from airlines serving Colombia.

Health—Medical facilities are satisfactory; many doctors have been trained in the US and speak English. Common medicines are available. Tapwater is safe in large cities; food should be carefully prepared.

Telecommunications—Long-distance telephone and telegraph service is available. Bogotá is in the same time zone as Washington, DC.

Transportation—Flights to Bogotá, Barranquilla, Cali, and Medellin are easy to arrange from the US, Europe, and Latin America. Local air service is excellent. Trains serve the densely populated areas, and buses provide service throughout the country. Taxis provide the most reliable public transportation in cities.

Tourist attractions—The Bogotá Gold Museum, the National Archeological Park at San Agustin, and the Caribbean resort of Cartagena, with its 17th century fortifications.

Travel advisory—Because of sporadic guerrilla activity, travel in certain rural areas may be hazardous. Before venturing into isolated sections of Colombia, check with the nearest US Consulate or with the US Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs, in Washington, DC, for the latest information.

READING LIST

These titles are provided as a general indication of material published on this country. The Department of State does not endorse unofficial publications.

Major English-language newspaper: The Chronicle (weekly).

Corr, Edwin G. The Political Process in Colombia. Denver: University of Denver Press, 1972.

Dix, Robert H. Colombia: The Political Dimensions of Change. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1967.

Garcia Marquez, Gabriel. One Hundred Years of Solitude. New York: Avon Publishers, 1972.

Holt, Pat M. Colombia Today—And Tomorrow. New York: Praeger, 1964.

MacEoin, Gary. Colombia and Venezuela and the Guianas. New York: Time, Inc. 1965.

Maullin, Richard L. Soldiers, Guerrillas, and Politics in Colombia. Lexington: Lexington Books, 1973.

Payne, James L. Patterns of Conflict in Colombia. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1968.

Smith, T. Lynn, Colombia: Social Structure and Process of Development. Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1967.

Available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402:

American University. Area Handbook for Colombia, 1977.

U.S. Department of Commerce, Foreign Economic Trends—Colombia. International Marketing Information Series: February 1980.

Pamphlets on Colombia (including a monthly newsletter, *Colombia Today*) are available without charge from the Colombia Information Service, 140 East 57th Street, New York, NY 10022 (tel. 212-421-8270).

Published by the United States Department of State • Bureau of Public Affairs • Office of Public Communication • Editorial Division • Washington, D.C. • October 1981 Editor: Joanne Reppert Reams

Department of State Publication 7767
Background Notes Series • This material is in the public domain and may be reproduced without permission; citation of this source would be appreciated.

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 • Subscription price: \$16 per year; \$20 for foreign mailing. Single copy price varies.



CHILDREN'S FASHION SHOW Photo by Gail Dvorak

Principal U.S. Officials

Ambassador—Thomas D. Boyatt Deputy Chief of Mission—Alexander Watson

Political Counselor—Adolph H. Eisner Economic Counselor—Reynold A. Riemer

Commercial Counselor—Ricardo Villalobos

Consul General—John D. Coffman Administrative Counselor—David R. Beall

Defense Attache—Col. Dennis Greene Agricultural Attache—Lloyd Homes Public Affairs Officer (USICA)—Carl Howard

Consul, Barranquilla—Gerald Whitman Consul, Cali—William Sergeant

The U.S. Embassy in Colombia is located at Calle 37, No. 3-40, Bogotá (tel. 285-1300). The U.S. Consulate in Barranquilla is located at the Hotel El Prado, Carrera 54, No. 70-10, Suite 163 (tel. 257-805, 457-624). The U.S. Consulate in Cali is located at Edificio Pielroja, Carrera 3, No. 11-55 (tel. 88-17098). The mailing address for the embassy and consulates is APO Miami 34038. ■

SAVE THE PREMIES OF NEIVA - by Jayne Darling

On December 5, 1981, we left for Colombia. Our destination was the city of Neiva. Neiva is a city of 200,000 people located 45 minutes away from Bogota by air. We had been informed late in October by the Bienestar office in Neiva that a baby girl was available for us to adopt. Our daughter Jennifer was 2 months old at the time of the adoption. We arrived in Neiva Sunday evening.

Shortly after our arrival, we were contacted by the social worker from Bienestar. We were told we could come to the Bienestar the next morning to pick up our daughter. That night we were so excited! It was hard to sleep thinking about what would take place the next day.

When we arrived at Bienestar we enjoyed meeting the people we had been corresponding with over the past months. We were warmly welcomed by all of the staff. For about the next half hour we drank coffee, and visited the best we could in our limited Spanish. It seemed like forever until we were summoned to another office.

We got to the other office and found a middle aged woman holding a sleeping baby. Jennifer looked just like the picture we had of her and she was wearing the dress we had sent her. The woman, we learned, was Jennifer's foster mother. Her entire family came to say good-bye, and we were really touched by the sadness they all showed when they turned her over to us. It was obvious that Jennifer was well cared for and loved by the family that took care of her.

After the necessary paper work was completed, we returned to our hotel. Later that day, with the help of an interpreter, our court date was set for Wednesday. Tuesday was a Colombian holiday so there would be no business on that day. We were happy to have a day of rest and relaxation. We spent the day swimming in our hotel pool, sightseeing the city, and getting to know our new daughter.

On Wednesday after going to court and getting her passport, we returned to Bienestar to collect our copies of the paperwork and to say goodbye, since we would be leaving for Bogota the next morning. We wanted to make a donation to Bienestar, but because they are a government agency, they cannot accept money and suggested a donation of clothes and toys instead.

Since we knew there would be many more couples adopting from Neiva, we asked the social worker if she had any suggestions for donations future couples might like to consider. She informed us of their need for an incubator and added that there was only one in the city of Neiva. Since an incubator is a very costly item she suggested the possibility of a fund being started to help pay for it. She said it would work out best if the fund could be set up in the states as they are not allowed to handle cash. After returning home, we contacted Jean Erichsen and asked for her assistance in setting up an incubator fund for Neiva. Jean agreed it was a worthwhile and needed fund and informed us it could be set up through Los Ninos.

If you are planning an adoption from Neiva and would like to make a donation to the incubator fund as an alternative to clothes and toys or if you would just like to help out, please send your tax-deductible contribution to Los Ninos International with "the incubator fund" marked in the check memo.

Ed. Note: An incubator costs \$2,000.00 in Colombia. Jim and Jayne Darling and Los Niños have established a savings account for the incubator. We will keep you informed of the fund's deposits each month. At this writing, there is \$25.00 in the account.

Adoptive parents traveling to Colombia may well save a life by carrying special formulas for infants such as Enfamil and ProSobee and premie nipples and bottles. You can purchase these items yourself or try to get them donated from the manufacturer, pharmacy, hospital or doctor.

INCUBATOR FUND				
Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of Neiva, Colombia for an incubator.	to	the	premature	babies
Name	Amo	ount		

These babies and children were recently adopted in Neiva. Left top: Jennifer Elena Darling, born 10/81; adopted 12/81 Right top: Emily Carolina Sjogren, adopted 12/81 Lower left: Marita Sofia and Paul Erich Peterson, adopted 11/81 Lower right: Aaron Berg, adopted 11/81



(For simultaneous release to our adoptive parents' groups: Los Ninos, Amigos, FIA, OURS, CPFAC of West Colo--for whatever use the newsletters do or don't want to make of this)

CONCRETE STEPS FOR FRUSTRATED WAITING PARENTS TO HELP OURSELVES

A couple of letters in the Nov-Dec $81~\underline{\text{News of OURS}}$ reminded me that waiting parents need to read something besides announcements that other parents and kids are no longer waiting.

The waiting parents had expressed feelings of frustration, which was partly a result of their reading too many of other peoples' success stories. I can identify with the waiting parents' feelings of frustration because only two years ago we, too, were just a couple waiting parents who were frustrated at the many roadblocks that were stopping us.

So I thought I'd celebrate the arrival of our second adopted child by writing an article saying things that would've helped us, as frustrated waiting parents. So, these are general concrete steps that we can take to help ourselves.

- 1) The most important step is communicating with lots of other adoptive parents and organizations. We can provide each other with information at each stage, from starting to decide what sort of kids we should be looking for—all the way to how we can deal with the family parenting problems after the kids arrive. We joined two or three parents' groups in nearby states. Nationally we joined OURS, Los Ninos, NACAC, ICCC, Amigos and LAPA. We talked to hundreds of adoptive parents in person, or on the phone, or through correspondence. Suddenly a breakthrough began on our getting a foreign adoptive placement on about the two hundredth phone call.
- 2) Another important step is learning to be persistent and resourceful (though generally courteous and diplomatic). Many (most?) successful adoptive families have met with total rejection from someone at some stage of the process. Nearly everyone meets with many frustrating delays. Rejections should be cause for reconsideration, but many rejections are for reasons having nothing whatever to do with the actual suitability of the waiting parents. For instance, we tried plenty of agencies before one would consider starting our home study; and we tried one or two more before we got a completed favorable home study.

Similar persistence and resourcefulness are often necessary at other levels of the process--such as the immigration service, obtaining a placement, and dealing with a foreign country.

3) Compared with heavily industrialized countries, less industrialized counties frequently have more "kids who wait," especially in more remore parts of those counties. If the country has bureaucratic procedures generally allowing foreign adoption, obtaining a placement can be mostly a matter of persistence and resourcefulness. U.S. Embassy "red tape" can be as confusing and deadly as that of the foreign country. Ed. Note: See <u>Gamines</u>, Chapter 9 for the necessary list of documents and the procedure.

Persistence and resourcefulness for a foreign adoption usually include working hard to acquire a "tourista" command of foreign language, culture and customs. Continual phone calls and/or visits to the foreign country may be necessary to expedite a foreign adoption: (Would you give a child forever into the care of someone who showed no more continual personal interest than once filling out a letter of application?)

4) There is an international company specializing in rapid transportation of documents around the world. They are opening more and more offices all the time: DHL International 800-227-6177: 1818 Gilbreath Rd, Burlingame CA 94010.

Some adoption newsletters advertise services to certify and authenicate documents in the U.S.A., but often documents must be re-authenticated in the capital city upon arrival in a foreign country. Ed. Note: This also applies to translations.

Leaving our immigration file in one I.N.S. office has always worked well for us. We can get documents to them much more reliably and speedily than the I.N.S. could have moved our file. A \$10.00 cable fee had to be paid in advance for our last child.

5) Adoption manners demand that we be courteous, diplomatic, and charitable—as well as persistent and resourceful. We want everyone involved to remain just as happy to help with the next adoption as they were with ours. The enriching foreign cultural experiences can give us additional resources to aid in raising our kids.

W. Tuck Forsythe - 801-259-7898 Box 177, Moab, UT 84532



LOS NINOS INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION AGENCY: the first six months

Eleven clients have completed their home studies and international adoption courses. Seven clients are in various stages of their studies. Most of them have written letters of inquiry or have applied to adoption sources in Belize, Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico and India. Each of our clients will be using one of the five methods of international adoption to facilitate an adoption or guardianship.

For our home study clients in Minnesota only, we now have child-placing agreements in Colombia. Chile and India. However, we will continue our emphasis on "parent-initiated" adoptions in order to reach as many orphaned and abandoned children as possible.

Our systematic method for international adoption require the pre-adoptive parents to study our texts to determine which countries permit international adoptions. Once the adoptive parents have decided upon the country or countries from which they hope to adopt, we discuss the age, sex and ethnicity of the child they wish to adopt, as well as the waiting times and costs. We also look at the requirements for adoptive parents imposed by these countries concerning age, marital status, infertility, and so on. Through this analysis, we are able to focus on one or two adoption sources in a country.

The next step for the prospective parents is to learn all they can about cultural differences and adoptive family adjustments. Then the prospective adoptive parents complete tasks in sequence with their home study interviews:

- preparing the application dossiers (for our agency and the foreign agency)
- writing a letter of inquiry to a foreign adoption source
- filing and fingerprinting at INS
- applying for passports
- writing an itinerary of the adoption trip
- drawing up a list of the adoption expenses
- outlining the procedure for immigrating the orphan (depending upon which method they use)

By the time (usually a period of four to twelve weeks) the clients are presented with the original copy of their home studies, they are competent to facilitate their own international adoptions.

LOS NINOS ADOPTION INFORMATION CENTER: the second year

Our adoption inquiries have grown to nearly 50 phone calls and 50 letters per week. Out-of-state callers are urged to communicate with us by mail and to send \$2.00 for our informational flyer explaining the books we distribute and our international services for non-residents. See pages 37 of this newsletter for a copy of this flyer.

HOW TO ESTABLISH A METHOD FOR "PARENT-INITATED" ADOPTIONS

We are now offering our concept to new or established agencies.

LOS NIÑOS INTERNATIONAL will provide:

Assistance in incorporating as a non-profit agency (each state has different requirements)

Help with filing tax exempt status with IRS

Share our state license application with you so that you can write our policies, goals and procedures into your licensing or modify them according to your state's requirements.

Supply our office forms which you can duplicate:

- Adoption application
- Contract, with Agreement and Statement of Policy
- Home Study guide
- Letter of reference guide
- Syllabus or lesson plan which accompanies text for parent education
- Time sheets for social workers and staff
- Stationery

We will offer the following materials to you at a discount:

Books:

Gamines: How to Adopt From Latin America
The Adoption Kit
How to Adopt From Asia, Europe and the South Pacific

Los Niños International has only a few requirements for those who wish to use our concept:

- 1. That our goals be included in your goals.
- 2. That you utilize our proven method for "parent-initiated" adoptions and educate your clients through our books and syllabus.
- That a staff person in your agency who will direct the parent education completes our Independent Study Course before teaching the course to clients.
- 4. Only one agency in a state may use our concept.

In addition, we require that you send us a copy of your state licensing and adoption laws if we do not already have them.

A network of agencies and affiliations will benefit all of us in the following ways:

We will be able to refer clients in your locality to you. Because we are internationally known, we receive requests for home studies every day from all over the world.

We will be able to keep each other current on new adoption sources as well as changes as they occur.

Directors, social workers and adoptive parents will have a proven method for parent-initated adoptions to follow. Write us concerning our fee for our concept.



IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE (INS)

Improvements in Procedures

FINGERPRINT CHARTS

Procedures for filing the I-600 Petition remain the same except for one small difference. Previously, INS assumed that the FBI had approved the petitioner (after the 40 day call-up elapsed) whether the fingerprint charts had been returned to the district office or not.

Since September, INS checks up on the fingerprint charts that have not been returned within 40 days by calling the FBI in Washington, D.C. to see whether the petition is approved or denied.

Smudged fingerprints will no longer delay clearance, either. INS now assumes that clearance will be granted. INS post-audits and sends a new set of fingerprint charts to Washington, D.C.

AGE LIMIT OF ORPHANS EXTENDED

A bill effective January 1, 1982 grants alien children under the age of 16 eligibility for the I-600 Petition. Previously, the maximum age for orphans immigrating through the use of this petition was 14.

ALIEN REGISTRATION

A federal budget cut effective January 1, 1982, eliminates the annual registration of orphans as aliens until they become U.S. citizens. This cut saves our government money and saves post-adoptive parents a trip to the post office.

For documented proof of these changes as well as other legislation concerning orphan immigration, consult the Federal Register.

If this column on INS confuses you, consult <u>Gamines: How to Adopt From</u>
Latin America, Chapter 9, for a complete guide to immigration and naturalization.

FEDERAL INCOME TAX DEDUCTIONS

Home study clients who paid fees or will pay fees to Los Ninos International between June 1st, 1981 to June 1st, 1982 may deduct that amount on their 1040.

Fees paid to Los Ninos International qualify as a deductible expense due to our provisional license granted by the State of Minnesota for the first year of operation. Fees paid to our agency are considered contributions and are tax deductible.

In addition, medical expenses incurred by the child are deductible within the limits set by the federal income tax directions.

MORE FEDERAL TAX DEDUCTIONS

Another deduction is the donation to your foreign child-placing source. However, this donation must be paid through Los Ninos International (or other non-profit tax exempt corporations) to qualify as a tax deduction. Non-profit, tax deductible corporations can issue a check on your behalf to your foreign agency or orphanage. Foreign lawyer's fees cannot be considered a donation, however.

MINNESOTA TAX DEDUCTIONS

Our state allows deductions such as Minnesota's attorney's fees, court costs, (domestic and foreign) notarization and authentication fees up to a limit of \$1,250.00.)

MEDICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE

Do you know whether or not your adopted child will be covered under your insurance policy the moment you sign the custody, adoption or guardianship documents? If not, you should seek coverage, or be financially prepared to cover any emergency.

One insurance company which seems able to cover a foreign child is: Medi-Guard, Underwritten by Association Life P.O. Drawer, 8-B Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201

ADOPTION BENEFITS FROM CORPORATIONS

Maternity leave may be obtained for newly adopted children from some corporations. We recently heard of a couple who decided that the father would take the maternity leave in order to spend those first months with their new baby.

Some corporations also pay benefits. One example is Control Data Corporation, which pays 80% of the adoption costs up to \$2,000 per child.

Inquire at your personnel department of your company concerning these benefits.

SAVING MONEY ON AIRFARE FLYING TO COLOMBIA

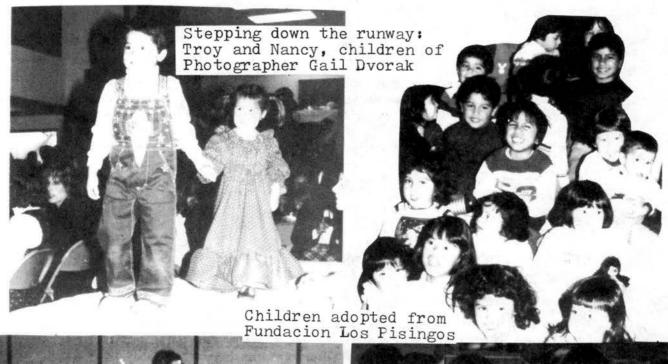
If you're on a budget, check the fares of Air Panama and Aereotal (a Colombian airline). Round trip from Miami to Bogota is about \$299.00.

The success of this fund-raiser may provide ideas to those who wish to raise funds for other foreign adoption agencies and orphanages.

A Children's Fashion Show and Salad Bar Luncheon with holiday and Latin American Crafts, door prizes and raffle items was held this past November. All garments modelled by adopted Latin American children were for sale in an auction following the show.

PLAC (Parents of Latin American Children) a group founded by Jean Erichsen and Cynthia O'Halloran about four years ago, organized this impressive fund-raiser. Planning began six months in advance. Donations collected by the group were phenomenal; mothers, grandmothers, and friends sewed children's clothing to model and to be auctioned off; they created articles for a craft boutique; and they made salads and dessert bars for the luncheon. Local merchants contributed door prizes and raffle items. Suburban newspapers agreed to publicize the event. Musicians and professional announcers donated their talents to provide music and to announce the models.

The auditorium held tables and chairs for 600 guests, and it appeared full to capacity. Ticket donations were tax-deductible, \$6.50 per adult and \$3.25 per child. According to the group's organizers, about \$5,400 was raised for two Colombian adoption agencies, Fundacion Los Pisingos and FANA.





Children adopted from FANA



Four girls adopted as babies from Casa de la Madre y el Nino

Dillon Press, our publisher, sent a press release and a copy of <u>Gamines:</u> <u>How to Adopt From Latin America</u> to the show's producer. If you would like to see us present the legal side of Latin American adoptions stressing the joys of cross-cultural adoptive families, please write:

DONAHUE Sheri Singer, Producer Multimedia Program Productions 2501 Bradley Place Chicago, IL 60618

BOOK REVIEW, PLAN Newsletter

The following review was written by one of the few persons qualified to review it—a bilingual social worker who conducts home studies, guides the documentation, and flies to Colombia to escort the children to their new parents, Julie Eagleson of PLAN, McMinnville, Oregon.

We invite you to reprint this review in your local newspapers, magazines and newsletters.

October, 1981

Vol. IV. No. 10

Book Review Gamines: How to Adopt from Latin America by Jean Nelson-Erichsen and Heino R. Erichsen is a brand new book that cannot be too highly recommended for families who have adopted from Latin America or who are planning to. The Erichsens have done their research well and have pages and pages full of information to share with their readers.

Gamines is split up in three sections: 1) Gamines, 2) How To Adopt From Latin America, and 3) Resource Guide.

"Gamines" discusses the authors' own adoption experience in Colombia, as well as giving other people's experiences in interview form. Families discuss not only how they did the adoption and how their travels went, but also some of the adjustments made after they got their children home. A photo section is included.

"How To Adopt From Latin America" discusses the pros and cons of Latin American adoption, social classes and family life before delving into the actual mechanics of a Latin American adoption: what requirements to meet in the home state; what documents to get together for the adoption source in Latin America; how to satisfy Immigration requirements in the U.S. Tips on actual travel in Latin America are given, including an excellent section on health problems for both parents and children.

"Resource Guide" contains a compendium of information on Latin American countries, addresses of public and private agencies in 29 countries, what kinds of children they are placing and to whom. Appendices are included: an adoption glossary, a list of international adoption agencies, U.S. Departments of Public Welfare, and a short list of basic Spanish vocabulary for adoptive parents.

Gamines can be obtained from Dillon Press, Inc., 500 S. Third Street, Minneapolis, MN 55415 for \$12.95. A copy will be kept in the PLAN Library and will be available for short-term loan. (Postage handling for Dillon Press is *1.00 utra)

"Gamines", by the way, is the Spanish word for children living on the streets. We hope that through the use of this excellent book fewer children will end up there.

TRANSLATION 307A Math

307A Mathematics Bldg.

Columbia University

N.Y.C.

10027

SPECIAL ISSUES Africa, Asia, Latin America, & The South Seas. Often the first glimpses in English of prose, verse, and oral traditions from exotic classics; plus writers you will only begin

to hear about years from now in other magazines.

Today's Child: The Health Care Needs of IMH Infants, by Holly van Gulden Wicker and Judy Walker Haavig, is now being made available to IMH families and other interested persons. Though sections of the book are specific about Calcutta and the problems and conditions of infants from there, the book will be of interest to anyone adopting an infant or young child from a Third World country where parasites, malnourishment and deprivation are common, such as in Latin America.

To order this comprehensive book (approximately 100 pages), send \$6.50 to Today's Child Publications, 4558 29th Avenue So., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55406.

TRAIS

THE JOURNAL OF LITERARY TRANSLATION

Double Issue: Fall 1980
7.00

UNIQUE The only magazine that joins the finest contemporary American writers with the best efforts of writers around the world. One Year (\$12)

PUBLICITY

Savvy magazine, March issue, will present an article with references to our work, on the subject of single adoptive mothers. An adoptive parent, Nancy Dailey, is the free lance journalist who wrote the article.

WCCO TV will broadcast a week-long series on adoption in February. Los Ninos International was one of the two agencies selected for interviewing.

The Minneapolis Tribune, Jan. 31, 1982, printed a very good review by

Audrey DeLaMartre on Gamines.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF ADOPTION AGENCIES

PLAN Plan Loving Adoption Now P.O. Box 667 McMinnville, OR 97128 (503) 472-8452

Cambridge Adoption and Counseling Associates, Inc. P.O. Box 190 Cambridge, MA 02142 (617) 825-6700





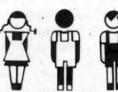
Jean Nelson-Erichsen, Program Director 612/872-4979 Los Ninos International Adoption and Information Center 919 West 28th Street Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408

Los Ninos International Adoption and Information Center, a non-traditional adoption agency, is incorporated, non profit and tax exempt. The Ann Landers syndicated columns (August, 1981 issues) listed Los Ninos International as one of the four reliable international adoption agencies in the United States.

We introduce an innovative concept in adoptions at a time when many traditional adoption agencies are phasing out due to the shortage of U.S.-born infants as well as the declining numbers of Korean-born orphans permitted to emigrate for adoption.

Through our method of "Parent-Initiated" adoptions:

- You will select an adoption source in Asia, Europe, Latin America or the South Pacific Islands or the United States.
- You will communicate with them yourself.
- You will either be assigned a child or select a child yourself.
- You may travel to your child's native country for the adoption.*





This approach is an alternative to the traditional "agency-initiated" adoption in which social workers and escorts handle these procedures for creating your family. The "parent-initiated" approach enabled Jean and Heino Erichsen, founders of Los Ninos, to adopt Colombian twins over eight years ago. Since then, they have guided prospective adoptive parents in the successful adoption of over 500 children from many foreign countries. The Erichsens have earned master's degrees in human development focused on international adoption.

"Parent-Initiated" adoptions are right for you if:

- You want to be involved in the addition of a child in your family.
- You wish to be in control of what happens during the adoption process (child you desire, time span, expenses).
- You hope to have some choices over the nationality of the child.
- You need the opportunity to meet your child before making a life-time commitment.
- You would enjoy gaining first-hand knowledge of your child's environment customs, and culture.

How do you begin?

- You will need a federally required home study from any public or private adoption agency in your state of residence.
- In addition, you will need our "Adoption Sources and Procedures" course, in which we will assist you in locating an adoption source and coordinating their legal procedures with your state and, if foreign, the U.S. immigration procedures. (See "List of Services.")

^{*} Escort service can be arranged from some of the foreign agenices listed in our publication.

THE CURRENT INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION SITUATION. Following is a list of countries from which U.S. citizens have adopted: (U.S. Visa Statistics)

EASTERN HEMISPHERE

Australia*

Bangladesh: 1 govt. source, lawyer's list

Egypt (only Moslems may apply)

Germany (West): govt. & private sources

Ghana: 1 govt. source Israel: 1 govt. agency

Italy: govt. & private sources

Japan: 1 govt. & 3 private agencies

Korea: 4 private agencies ****

Lebanon** Liberia***

Mauritius: 1 private source

Morocco (only Moslems may apply)

Philippines: 1 govt. 2 private agencies

Poland: govt. adoption sources

Portugal & Azores: govt. & private sources

Greece: Govt. & 1 private agency

Hong Kong: 1 govt. & 2 private agencies

India: 3 govt. & 2 private agencies

Indonesia: 1 govt. & 2 private agencies

Ireland*

Singapore: 1 govt. adoption source

Spain: 5 govt. sources

Sri Lanka: 1 govt. & 2 private sources

Sudan*

Taiwan: 2 private adoption sources

Thailand: 7 private adoption sources*****

Tunesia (only Moslems may apply)

U.S. Territory - Guam, American Samoa,

Micronesia: U.S. govt. sources

Vietnam***

Western Samoa: private lawyer's list

Yugoslavia: govt. sources & 1 private

agency

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Argentina: 3 govt. & 1 private agency

Bahamas: private lawyer's list

Barbados, including:

Anguilla

British Virgin Islands

Antigua, Dominica

Grenada, St. Kitts

Nevis, St. Lucia

St. Vincent

Belize: private lawyer's list

Bolivia: 1 govt. & 1 private agency

Brazil: 8 govt. & private agencies

Canada*

Chile: 1 govt. & 3 private agencies

Colombia: 24 govt. & 6 private agencies

Costa Rica: 1 govt. & 2 private sources

Dominican Republic: 1 govt. & 1 private

source

El Salvador**

Guatemala: 1 govt. & 1 private agency

Guyana: 1 govt. source

Haiti: 1 govt. agency

Honduras: 1 govt & 2 private sources

Jamaica: 1 govt. source

Mexico: 30 govt. & private sources

Nicaragua**

Panama: I govt. agency

Paraguay: 1 govt. source

Peru: 1 govt. & 2 private agencies

Suriname: 1 govt. source

Trinidad: 1 govt. source

Uruguay: 1 govt. source*

U.S. Commonwealths & Territories -

Puerto Rico & the Virgin I.: govt. sources

Venezuela: 1 govt. source & lawyer's

list

^{*} International adoptions are discouraged due to the few children available for adoption

^{**} International adoptions are inadvisable due to civil strife

International adoptions were terminated when the Comunists seized control of the country

The Korean government plans to phase out international adoptions in the

^{*****} New regulations in Thailand have temporarily brought adoptions to a near halt.

OUT-OF-STATE OR CLIENTS OF OTHER MINNESOTA AGENCIES LOS NINOS INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION SERVICES

Please fill in the form on the next page for services I, II, or III

INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION COURSE, "Principles and Procedures of International Adoptions," is designed for prospective adoptive parents and social workers to help them locate a foreign child-placing agency and learn to coordinate the state and immigration with foreign adoption procedures. Self paced, six lessons by correspondence
INTERNATIONAL SERVICES (Participants must also register for the course listed above. Be certain to order required texts at the same time.) Clients of agencies in Minnesota, in other states, or in other countries, may engage Los Ninos for one of the following services:
to handle translations, then send the client's letters of inquiry to locate an appropriate foreign child-placing source for the client and assist with the referral.
to provide guidance and conduct research for prospective parents who have already located a child, but need help in coordinating their state, immigration and foreign adoption procedures. Either service\$200.00
INDIVIDUAL PORTFOLIO. Designed to fit the needs of each prospective adoptive parent, may be ordered by filling out the personal data form. We will send you the names and addresses of foreign agencies which seem most appropriate for you to contact. Includes appropriate texts
HOME STUDIES FOR MINNESOTA RESIDENTS ONLY Our social worker will conduct the federally required home study and an International Adoption Consultant will assist the pros- pective adoptive parents in locating an appropriate foreign child-placing agency and guide them in preparing their letters of inquiry, application documents and in coordinating Minnesota, U.S. immigration and the foreign adoption procedures. Write for the adoption application form, contract and fee schedule.
CONSULTATION Consultations with Jean Nelson-Erichsen, M.A., researcher, author of two books on international adoption and with nine year's experience in guiding adoptive parents and social workers in the sucsuccessful completion of over 500 adoptions in Asia, Latin America and the South Pacific may be handled in a one-hour personal interview, by mail or by pre-arranged collect phone call. Includes text

OUT-OF-STATE OR CLIENTS OF OTHER MINNESOTA AGENCIES LOS NINOS INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION SERVICES

PERSONAL DATA FORM	
Please submit your check forwit	th this form.
Name(s)	Initial consultation
Address	*Be certain to order one or both
Principal Control of the Control of	texts for the course:
	TEXTS - Gamines: How to Adopt
	From Latin America 13.95
Phone	- How to Adopt From Asia Europe and the South
Will you accept a collect call?	<u>Pacific</u>
Child you are requesting. Age: minimum	m and maximumto
Sex Either sex? Nationality	v preferences
Ethnic preferences	
Sibling group? How many in sibl	ling group?
Maximum age and minimum age in sibling g Sexes	group?
Health	
Correctible handicap?	Non-correctible handicap?
List the kinds of handicaps you can cope	e with
HOME STUDY INFORMATION	
Have you applied for a homestudy? Home study in process? Date of Home study will be updated? Have you written a summary of your state foreign orphan to share with your foreign	completion?e's requirements and procedures to adopt a gn adoption source if they ask for it?
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE	(INS)
Have you applied for an I-600 Petition?	
Have you been cleared by the F.B.I.? Have you written a summary of how the I your state's requirements in order to it foreign adoption source if they ask for	NS requirements must be coordinated with mmigrate an orphan, to share with your it?
PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE PARENTS INFORMATIO	
Nationality(ies)	
Citizenship(s) Educational level(s)	1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 -
1.0	LanguagesOne or both?
Ability to travel? How long can you stay abroad?	One or both?
Do you have any contacts in a foreign c	
Religion(s)	
General health	Handicaps?
	How many?
If married, are you infertile?	Figure 2
Do you prefer a "parent-initiated" adop	
The cost of a foreign adoption is betwee you adopt from a private agency or a pu country and the airfare. How much mone	en \$2,500 and \$6,000 depending upon whether blic agency, the economy of the foreign by are you budgeting?

Gamines: How to Adopt From Latin America, by Jean Nelson-Erichsen and Heino R. Erichsen, provides the first comprehensive, practical guide to adopting from 24 Latin American countries. The stories of once-abandoned children and their adoptive parents, as well as the names and addresses of over 80 child-placing sources, are included. Hard cover. 352 pages. Photos.

How to Adopt From Asia, Europe and the South Pacific, by the same authors. Covers 24 countries; the names and addresses of over 80 child-placing sources as well as their procedures. Soft cover. 126 pages. Photos.

How to Adopt Internationally has been replaced by the books above.

The Adoption Kit by the same authors. An introduction to the current adoption situation in the United States. Covers questions usually asked by married and single prospective parents, such as: how long it takes, what the requirements are, where the children are, the costs involved. Lists names and address of public agencies, photo listing books, programs for minority children and Indochinese refugess. Foreign resources included. Soft cover. 44 pages.

NEWSLETTER

Los Ninos News. Edited by Jean Nelson-Erichsen. A bi-monthly report on the latest communications with official sources of adoption information in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the South Pacific, as well as pictures and adoption stories.

BULLETIN BOARD SETS

International Children. Written by Jean Nelson-Erichsen, this bulletin board set with 16 exotic bazaar booths feature children and cultural offerings from 22 countries/areas of the world. 16-page guide. Scenes range to 10" x 14". Bright and colorful, this cultural resource features Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, India, Korea, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

<u>International Christmas</u>. Children of 15 nations in national costumes promote interest in Christmas observances in other lands. Figures range to 27".



Prices include tax and Fourth Class postage, with delivery in 2-3 weeks. If you wish speedier delivery, send \$5.00 extra for First Class & handling. Foreign residents, please add \$10.00 to Air Mail books and bulletin sets.

ORDER FORM
ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK FOR:

Correspondence course on international adoptions	\$70.00
Gamines: How to Adopt From Latin America	\$13.95
How to Adopt From Asia, Europe and the South Pacific	\$13.95
Adoption Kit	
Los Ninos News. Yearly subscription, U.S. residents (Foreign subscriptions, \$30.00, including air mail & pac	\$15.00
International Children, bulletin board set	\$ 6.95
International Christmas, bulletin board set	



USA4c

A PUBLIC THAT READS

Los Niños International Adoption and Information Center 919 West 28th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408

Irene Gomez de Bethke
4649 Decatur Ave. N.
New Hope, MN 55428

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Project Director/Editor.....Jean Nelson-Erichsen
Business Manager/Consultant....Heino R. Erichsen
Hispanic Affairs Consultant....Irene Gomez de Bethke
ADVISORY BOARD

Mark and Nancy Cooper, Concern for Children, Ohio Wilma Dorsey, Lifeline for Children, Florida Pixie Holbrook, John Rioux, Connecticut Betty Laning, ODS/ICCC, Massachusetts Anne McManus, HOPE International Family Services, Minnesota Anna Marie Merrill, ICCC, Colorado Pat Sexton, FCVN, ODS, ICCC, Pennsylvania Jo Spicuzza, Project Orphans Abroad, Ohio Maxine Sullivan, Amigos, Oregon Judith Vincent, Attorney-at-law, Adoptive parent, Minnesota Kathy Zamboni, COAC of California

TYPIST
Ann Sinnott
LAYOUT

Jean Erichsen



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

LOSNIÑOS NEWS

LOS NINOS NEWS

Minnesota.

News of National and International Sources and Procedures and Children's Cultural Resources

Volume 1 Number 4 Copyright by Los Ninos October/November 1981

Newsletter of Los Ninos International Adoption and Information Center, Inc.

A non-profit, professional guidance/research center approved by the State of

PAGE TABLE OF CONTENTS The Current Adoption Situation - in the South Pacific by Kathy Zamboni..... - in Neiva, Colombia, "Our Ten Week Wonder Boy," by the Scholffeldts..... 10 - in the Departments of Cundinamarca and Tolima, Colombiaby Shelley Cruz . - in Ecuador by Daniel Giles..... Celebration of the Battle of Boyaca in Minneapolis..... 15 U.S. Waiting Children, "Adoptions in Minnesota"..... Networking - for El Salvador..... 16 - for India..... - for Korea.... 17 - for INS in Illinois..... 17 Our Readers Write Us..... 17 19 Publicity..... 21 Announcements of New Adoption Agencies..... Helpful Publications to Send for..... 21 Los Ninos International Adoption Services..... Books to Order.....

COVER PICTURE: Children of the Solomon Islands UNICEF Photograph by Kamal

THE ADOPTION SITUATION IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC ISLANDS OF FIJI, TONGA, WESTERN SAMOA, AND THE COOK ISLANDS by Kathi Zamboni

In July and August, 1981, my husband and I and 4/5 of our children spent a working vacation on the major islands of Fiji, Tonga, Western Samoa, American Samoa, and the Cooks. One purpose of this trip was to talk personally with those persons having some type of involvement with adoptions in their country. Their positions varied from Director of Child Welfare to adoptive parent, to attorney, to wife of the Ministries of Justice and of Tourism. This was my first trip to these Pacific Islands and obviously what I report are the impressions and understandings of one person--myself. In each interview I began by explaining my role--to gather information on the possibilities of international adoption in order that I might share it with other interested persons in the United States. I introduced myself as the adoptive parent of two Latin American-born children, as well as three children born to me (proudly showing off their photographs or pointing them out) and explained that I was not trying to adopt now, nor was I employed by any public or private organization or agency. Throughout our discussions I included my personal philosophies relating to adoption (identifying them as such) in order that we might feel an atmosphere of exchange and sharing.

Generally, the Polynesian answer to "adoption?" is that their culture functions in ways which integrate the abandoned, orphaned, or unwanted child into families which are usually friends or relatives.

A formal acknowledgement of the need for adoption does not exist and thus there are no government programs, foster homes, orphanages, shelter care homes, or child protective services, etc., as we know them in the United States, except for Fiji. While this approach appears close to the ideal society in which everyone is valued and wanted, and there is enough for everyone to live peaceably, the tourist brochures of the South Pacific do not depict the full story. In fact, human nature still provides for variation—there apparently are unwanted children born as a result of a tryst with a transient seaman, children born of incest, and abused children. The concept of the Rights of the Child as set forth by the United Nations does not play a predominent role in official policy nor among the general population. In each of the islands, however, there are laws relating to adoptions.

FIJI. The exception to this general impression is the island of Fiji. There I spent a full morning in a delightful discussion with the National Director of Social Welfare. International adoption was familiar to him and just that morning he had sent a proposal to the legal department aimed at re-evaluation of current adoption laws. It was his desire that each applicant be considered individually, with the residence requirements for applicants being a secondary criteria. To counteract my sense of frustration at "residency requirements" he explained that they were the product of old British law, not some whim of a local Fijian legislator. In Fiji there is a need for international adoptions and there are children of all ages waiting in government and private children's homes in need of families.

Foreigners(anyone who is not Fijian—including us!), mostly from New Zealand, have adopted Fijian children, but only after satisfying the residency requirement which was feasible for them because of long—term (2 year) assignments in Fiji. This Director has received applications from all over the world. To add to my perspective he described a negative instance of an international adoption in which the child was allowed to leave the island before the adoption was finalized and who is now in protective custody of the foreign government while a decision is being made about who is responsible for her since the adoptive parents did not adopt her and now do not want her. The point of my including this example is so that the reader will better understand any hesitations which a government might express about releasing its children for adoption by foreigners. In hindsight, this Director could see warning signals, but at the time all parties were trusted to be acting in good faith.

As a follow-up to my discussion with this cordial, extremely well educated, and straight-forward official I sent him a letter describing the two international adoption processes possible for U.S. citizens to use, i.e. IR-3 visa, finalize there (Adopt Abroad) which would be possible in Fiji if residency requirements become secondary qualifications; or IR-4 visa: child brought to U.S. on guardianship to be adopted here (intercountry adoption requiring that state preadopt requirements be met. Apparently this alternative is not available to New Zealanders and may not have been known to the Director. I have not yet (Oct., 1981) received a response, but anticipate one soon.

It appears to me that the next step would be taken when a well-prepared U.S. family sent an excellent letter of inquiry to the Director. The letter would leave no doubts about the applicants' knowledge of the international adoption process (including state and federal requirements and the legal safeguards such as fingerprint check and homestudy); it would express the family's sincere interest in Fijian culture and demonstrate a willingness to be flexible in the area of 1) race of child, 2) ability to travel to Fiji to receive the child and complete the legal work, and 3) to provide follow-up on the child and family's adjustment. The letter would express a desire to make a donation or bring aid supplies; it might include photos of the applicants and their setting, and also discuss the legal, moral and social status of the adopted child within the family, i.e. that he would assume the family name, receive equal treatment in all areas including education and inheritance, that he would receive the same rights and acquire the same responsibilities as children born to the family, and that after adoption he would be eligible for U.S. citizenship.

No specific requirements about age of applicants, length of marriage, infertility were discussed, nor were fees mentioned, but it would be my impression that these factors would not be generally restrictive. It was interesting to note that the Fiji telephone book included public service advertisements for, "Foster Parents—temporary care for abandoned or neglected children" and, "Year of the Child".

The population of Fiji is Fijian (Melanesian) 44%, Indian 50%, European, and other Pacific islanders 6%. Major religions are Christian, Hindu, Muslim. Education: percentage attendance-85% (6-13 yrs.). Literacy-85%. Health: infant mortality rate-41/1,000 (U.S. - 17/1,000). Life expectancy-70

years. The Fijians are brown-skinned, with curly hair and a sturdy build; they appear racially distinct from Africans. "Fiji is a cultural cross-roads drawing its new spirit of independence from the confluence of the Fijians--themselves a melding of Polynesian, Melanesian and Papuan ancestry, with the British and Indian and Chinese settlers." (Air New Zealand, Fiji booklet). Children of all ethnic groups are equally available for adoption; there tends to be more girls than boys because females are more of an economic burden in this society. The East Indians originally came to Fiji as indentured servants and now form the business class. National law prevents Indians from owning land. In addition to the predominant public schools which are integrated, there may be private schools established by the Indians specifically for their children, as well as Indian orphanages. Religious groups may also establish schools and orphanages. Abortion is illegal in Fiji, but occurs. There is no caste system and inheritance is passed through the father.

KINDOM OF TONGA. It was our experience that the government of Tonga, as in many of the Pacific Islands, is very wary of foreigners because islanders have been taken advantage of many times in the past both as individuals and as nations. Colonialism has left its mark which includes a sense of caution toward non-Polynesians, as well as a strong sense of local pride. Our advance written offer to donate dental and nursing services as short-term volunteers received a short, polite, but negative reply. In speaking personally to the Peace Corps director (U.S. citizen), she expressed a real need for all types of medical services. The decision of the King of Tonga to open the islands to tourism was apparently an economic one, rather than one motivated by a desire for outside influences. Of the four Pacific Island cultures we observed the Tongans appeared the most traditional, the families the most close-knit, and the society the least altered by exposure to foreign contacts. "Tongans take great pride in their Polynesian traditions. Even if they seek their fortunes overseas, as many must, they preserve their culture in their homes and gladly return to their own land for Holidays. Although most speak English as a second language, the liquid nuances of their own tongue sounds easier on the ear and on the lips. They follow a disciplined. but not restricted way of life, notable for a deep reverence for the family which extends to most distant relationship and binds members into a responsible and caring clan... No one has a chance to feel lonely or unwanted or to act unsocially for Tongans enjoy working and playing as a group. And even in the face of misfortune, Tongans always find something for which to thank God: a fine day, a meeting with a friend, a good haul of fish, high marks at school." (Air New Zealand, The Kingdom of Tonga pamphlet).

Perhaps it is because of this strong sense of responsibility to the group that the Tongans seem least likely to have children in need of adoption by foreign families. According to an American nurse married to a Tongan, "Legally only illegitimate babies may be adopted, as children are honored and respected in Tonga." I did not have any real opportunities to talk specifically about adoption with government persons.

WESTERN SAMOA. It is very difficult to write about each one of my interviews without getting swallowed up in fond remembrances because

each name brings back wonderful and unique experiences. We found that each island was different and special in its own way—the peoples of each looked different from one another even though most were Polynesian, each island history and legend was different from the other, each group had different terminology and attitudes toward their own homes as well as toward foreigners, and each person, of course, responded and acted differently.

I came to Western Samoa armed with specific names of adoption contacts, but had also been told in advance by Jean*1 that these persons would probably be off-island. So I "hit the pavement" anyway, dressed in what I considered to be my most appropriate daytime island dress (bright pink knit with white hibiscus, ankle length), a shell necklace (a gift to my husband for his volunteer service at one of the local island schools), and a flower in my neatly arranged hair. I received comments from the young men on the porches along the way and I was personally and cheerfully escorted to the private office of Mr. Henry Lambert where we spent two hours exchanging information and perspectives. From there I was invited to go with him to pick up his small son from school and then to his house (it was lunch time) where I had the opportunity to meet his relatives. His Samoan wife arrived home in time for introductions—she had been to the large open market and had also noticed me, unaware that I was heading for her husband's office!

Mr. Lambert and his wife had just returned from a trip to the U.S. in which they visited with her family in Los Angeles and had escorted a Samoan infant to a Minnesota family! Apparently the Lamberts' had received the Minnesota inquiry/application and Mrs. Lambert had felt touched enough to become personally involved.*3 She had located an infant in need of adoptive parents (the infant was on another island) and had made the necessary arrangements for an independent adoption with a final decree from the government courts. (Since both adoptive parents had not seen and observed the child during the adoption process it will be necessary for them to meet any state of residency pre-adoption requirements and to re-adopt in their state according to U.S. federal immigration law). Adoptions in Western Samoa follow the New Zealand model. In working with the Lamberts the steps would include:

- 1. a letter of application
- 2. acceptance by Lamberts
- 3. location of a child (may take 2-3 months)
- 4. sending child's documents to U.S. in order to file I-600 petition*
- 5. presentation and finalization of child's adoption in Samoan courts
- 6. continuous care for child
- 7. application for visa from U.S. Embassy in Wellington or Hong Kong (3-4 months)—arrange for visa to be issued in Pago Pago, American Samoa if possible.

*If family did not travel to Western Samoa

If Mr. Lambert felt it necessary to use the services of an attorney, the attorney's fee would be about \$90. Children available include infants under 6 months of age.

Mr. Lambert requested of me that it be made very clear in any information relating to him that there is no system established to do large numbers of adoptions. His wife functions as an individual and is limited by being only one person with responsibilities to her own small children, extended family and community. Please do not overwhelm them with requests

and correspondence. In negotiating with the Lamberts, I would suggest that several areas be clarified:

--care of the child (may be done by Mrs. Lambert) and costs involved; the child will be taken to the Lambert's family physician for care and embassy physical

-- fees/charges/donations/gifts

--escorting/transportation costs/travel

If one were interested in pursuing the adoption of a Western Samoan child I would highly recommend obtaining some knowledge of the islands, the people, culture and history*2 BEFORE beginning communications. It would seem prudent to include in an inquiry letter the same types of information as I have indicated for Fiji, demonstrating an understanding of the laws of international adoption including the fact that a visitor's visa allowing the child to enter the U.S. is not appropriate and can be risky.

Priority of applicant families apparently would be based on the Lamberts' preferences and impressions of the applicants and how their philosophy about international adoption of Samoan children corresponded with that of the Lamberts. After experiencing the Pacific Islands it was easy for me to be empathetic to Mr. Lambert's query, "Is a Samoan child truly 'better off' in another country with his adoptive parents than he would be if he remained in Samoa to be cared for by his extended family?" There is, of course, no absolute answer to this as each situation in which a child might be released by his parents for adoption is surrounded by a multitude of circumstances and alternatives. Only the point about a child's individual rights which allow him to reach his full potential is substantial, but this must be weighed against the survival of the group as an integral unit. Secondly, anyone involved with international adoptions must be able to answer, "Why should a mother relinquish her child and permit him to leave the island where she will never see him again?"

Mr. Lambert's life with the Samoans has lead him to some very beautiful perceptions of the characteristics which a Samoan child might be expected to exhibit: "he/she would be sensitive to human relationships and feelings", "warm and loving", and "very generous"—he would never refuse someone in need.

Mr. Lambert is past president of the Chamber of Commerce of Samoa, corporate secretary to Mr. MacKenzie, and unofficial assistant to Mr. MacKenzie, U.S. Consular Agent on Western Samoa.

"With an open mind and an open heart come, smile with us. Kick your shoes off and stroll on empty, golden beach. Feel the sun warm your back and the surf curl round your toes. Pluck mangos for a snack and lie flat on your back, counting green coconuts in a blue sky...Take the time to watch an entire sunset that dips the world in bronze...Come to Western Samoa with an open mind and an open heart, for this is how you will be welcomed." With an invitation like that (Western Samoa Visitors' Bureau pamplet) it was fortunate that the law offices of Messrs. Kruse, Va'ai, and Barlow, Solicitors and Barristers, were right next door to our hotel. I was graciously received by Mr. Rapi Va'ai in the late afternoon. This young man seemed well versed in family law and has done adoptions, including those by foreigners. He would be pleased to work with families, but

clarified that applicants would need to locate the child themselves, as it would be considered unethical for him (as an attorney) or his wife to locate the child. Mr. Va'ai reiterated that the Samoan way with needy children would be to keep them within their extended family setting. As we pursued the vagaries of human nature--child abuse, incest, a temporary relationship--a bit deeper, Mr. Va'ai offered that child abuse in Samoa might be couched under the term "discipline", and thus would be very difficult to treat or to prove in court. It became apparent to me that, of course, as a lawyer, these were exactly the types of family law cases he might see. Mr. Va'ai indicated that the children available for adoption might be of mixed racial background (Polynesian/Oriental) (and I would add the possibility of Polynesian/tourist, diplomat, expatriate). I indicated to him that in addition to U.S. families adopting mixed race children they also lovingly adopt children with physical conditions such as cleft palate, post-polio crippling, or burn scars. Mr. Va'ai said that only just recently the needs of handicapped persons were being recognized and that previously a physically defective child would have been hidden away by the family because beauty is a strong cultural value.

To finalize the adoption in a Western Samoan court, the following documents would be needed:

- 1. an application to adopt (or to receive guardianship) which states why the court should grant the request including such reasons as "natural love and affection", opportunities, and the assurance of better welfare for the child than the natural parents could provide;
- 2. child's birth certificate (it is the duty of the chief in every village to assure that all births are registered);
- 3. mother's release (Samoan law provides that an attorney shall explain exactly to the biological parent the significance of the relinquishment);
 - 4. marriage certificate of applicants (singles OK);
 - 5. names and birth dates of other children in family;
 - 6. notarized financial statement including income, assets, and expenses;
- 7. name of child--changed at time of adoption (new birth certificate is issued with new names)

Mr. Va'ai believed that these documents would take approximately two weeks to be processed through the courts and approximately seven weeks to finalize the adoption (after the child is located and the birth certificate and mother's release are obtained). The biological parents may specify religion or other conditions to which the adoptive parents must agree. Laws of Samoa relating to adoption state that the applicants be over 21 years of age; no length of marriage is specified, no conditions of infertility. Singles may adopt and the policy of the court would determine whether one could adopt a child of the opposite sex. Sources for locating a child which Mr. Va'ai suggested included the Peace Corps, a church person, or perhaps a hospital. His fee for international adoption would be approximately \$180. Applicants would want to request a list of documents and to clarify exactly what would be included in the attorney's services.

AMERICAN SAMOA. (see prospectus regarding status with U.S.A.) My information on adoption in American Samoa was gained from an American attorney who had been practicing in American Samoa and from an adoptive parent married to a Samoan. The adoptive parent had experienced the usual frustrations of dealing with bureaucracies and in advocating for her children in school. We had lots to share! She has cared for infants while awaiting the adoptive parents' arrival from the mainland and pointed out some major considerations which sensitive adopting parents must realize:

- 1. that it is a very emotional experience for herself and her children to care for a little child-to watch him/her develop and blossom and then to let him go:
- 2. that the biological parents know where the child is during this time and they too come for care and assistance while the child is there and after. Essentially the relinquishing parents become a part of her family and the Samoan way expects that she care for them.

It may be interesting to note that American Samoa (and Guam as well as some of the Pacific Trust territories) are a part of ARC 9. Louise Fleenor, ARC 9 project director, has visited American Samoa's child welfare.

COOK ISLANDS. Cook Islanders have had experience with international adoption, including foreigners who have quickly adopted at the last minute before returning home, with the hope of gaining some claim to islands lands, according to the wife of a government official with whom I visited. Currently the government ministers are reviewing adoption laws with an eye toward protecting the islanders and the goal of establishing whether a Cook Island child forefeits all rights to inheritance, property, Island heritage, etc. if adopted by a foreigner. Also being considered is the effect of international adoption on the individual and for the society.

I also met a young Cook Island woman who had adopted 2 Maori children. We had an exciting time discussing the common issues of

- 1. how/when/what to tell your child about his adoption;
- 2. whether to speak Maori or English at home
- 3. the second child's adjustment seems to be proceeding differently than the first (who had been adopted as a newborn);
 - 4. resolving infertility;
 - 5. adoption -- a beautiful way to build a family.

"The custom in the Cook Islands is not the same (as that of the non-Polynesian industrialized society). A household here usually consists of the father, the mother, their children and other relations. Sometimes the parents of the father or the mother live with the family, and in addition there may be other relations, including perhaps a cousin, a nephew, an uncle or an aunty of the father or the mother. As they see it, they are members of that family... The Maori word for family is Kopu tangata. A kopu tangata would include anybody who is related to the father or the mother of the household. A person who has a big house often ends up with a big family. In most cases the householder and his wife do not seem to experience any inconvenience...A Maori kopu tangata is very different from a Papaa kopu tangata. As with other things, there are two sides to the story. There are privileges that come from one's relationship to others, and there are duties he has to perform in return for those privileges. To expect privilege and refuse to perform the duties is beyond the imagination of a Rarotongan." (Taira Rere, Some Aspects of Rarocongan Life) . It appears that there are very few children in need of international adoption, however a sensitive independent adoption inquiry might be productive.

The most important point which I want to stress in this article is the need for sensitivity and respect when dealing with international

adoption contacts. From the initial letter, through the trip to receive your child, to the follow-up after you are home, one must consider himself an Ambassador of goodwill and the best of human spirits. The Pacific Islanders individually and collectively have already been taken advantage of by foreign governments, religious spokesmen, foreign tourists, and entrepreneurs. Be observant of their customs and preferences such as wearing long skirts and strictly observing the Sabbath. Learn a few words of the local language and develop a sincere love for the richness of differences. Each of the island's visitors' bureaus can supply you with information regarding conduct, facilities, culture, etc. upon request--again do not overload these developing countries unnecessarily (often your airline can provide helpful brochures too). Try not to be judgmental--remember that these cultures have survived for a long, long time, and that it is very difficult to expect a nation or an individual to talk about his "faults" or "weaknesses", especially to outsiders. Frequently the experience which a lawyer or government representative may have had with adoption by foreigners has been with New Zealand laws, which may be different than those of the U.S.A.

It is clear to me, that except for Fiji, there are no large numbers of children in need of international adoption. One does not see begging on the streets; there appears to be minimal contrasts between very rich and very poor. It is the cultural norm to absorb all children into the society, and because of this a need for government protections for family-less children is almost unnecessary.

Because of the personal satisfactions given to me by this investigation, and because of my desire to further the positive image of adoption and its various prospectives, I am remaining in contact with each of the above persons. I am sending to each copies of the $\underline{\text{OURS Newsletter}}$, the $\underline{\text{Los Ninos}}$ Newsletter, and a $\underline{\text{COAC}}$ newsletter. Where appropriate I am also including information on starting a parent group and on RESOLVE support group for infertile couples.

Fiji Visitors' Bureau - phone 22-867 P.O. Box 92 Suva, Fiji South Pacific

American Embassy - phone 23-131 or 25-304, 306 P.O. Box 218 Suva, Fiji

Permanent Secretary for Social Welfare Ministrey/Director Social Welfare Government Building Suva, Fiji

Jean Porter, Peace Corps Director phone 21-466 P.O. Box 147 Nuku' Alofa Kingdom of Tonga South Pacific Director of Family Planning Vaiola Hospital Nuku'Alofa, Tonga

Minister of Police (The Honorable...) Nuku'Alofa, Tonga

U.S. Consular Agent - phone 21631 Vernon W. MacKenzie P.O. Box 586 Apia, Western Samoa

Mr. Henry Lambert - telex 239 Box 1234

Apia, Western Samoa

Director General of Health Health Department Motootua Hospital Apia, Western Samoa Wes Nukoyama--Associate Peace Corps Director P.O. Box 880 Apia, Western Samoa

Messrs. Kruse, Va'ai and Barlow P.O. Box 1161 Apia, Western Samoa

Office of Tourism American Samoa Government P.O. Box 1147 Pago Pago, American Samoa Mental Health Clinic LBJ Tropical Medicine Center Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

Short and Tyler--Solicitors and Barristers/Advocate General Rarotonga, Cook Islands

James Gosselin Foreign Secretary Rarotonga Cook Islands

I would be interested in hearing about any contacts and responses as a result of this information.

Kathleen Zamboni, Rt. 1, Box 209, Arcata, CA 95521 707/668-5730 (between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. only)

- *1 Ed. note: Once again, time and chance and happenstance occurred to make this adoption a reality. In February, 1981, I helped a Peace Corps couple who had adopted a baby in Samoa to emigrate their child. I learned of several adoption sources in Samoa through them. Thus I was able to help direct the Howards in their seach for a Polynesian baby. And, I was able to provide helpful contacts there for Kathy Zamboni to visit on her trip. As far as we know, these are the first Western Samoan children adopted by Midwesterners.
- *2 Margaret Mead, Coming of Age in Samoa. A delightful study of family life. The responsibility for baby care is given to 5 and 6 year old "nursemaids" who tote the babies and toddlers around all day, sleep with them at night, and keep their little charges fed, content and entertained at all times so that they don't cry (The "nursemaids" are disciplined if their babies cry).
- *3 A BABY FROM WESTERN SAMOA. Tara is about nine months old now. She arrived in Los Angeles on June 29, 1981, when she was about four and one-half months old.

Tara has really developed since we've had her home. At first she did not sit up well by herself and would not tolerate being left alone in a room for even an instant. In Samoa her entire life has been spent either in someone's arms or someone else's lap, and she was most happy with an audience. While it is still true that Tara "turns on" for company, she has really gained in independence and now loves to go exploring on her own.

Her most noticeable feature is her eyes, which are huge and very dark and she knows how to use them to create winsome expressions. Henry Lambert, our adoption source in Western Samoa had told us that the Samoan people are generally very easy-going and have very bright and cheerful dispositions. This is very true of Tara at least. She rarely cries, is often laughing and enjoying herself and even when she has been going through a bout of teething, getting shots, etc., she rarely stays upset for long.

We have had minimal health problems (Tara was well cared for), no sleeping problems and not even any real adjustment problems. It is true, however, that as Tara is our first child, our schedule had to undergo some drastic changes. Now it seems like she has been with us four years rather than just four months, we are so oriented to her schedule. I even eat breakfast now!

We are so grateful to Henry and Atoa Lambert for finding Tara and bringing her to us. We are also very thankful that the Erichsens published information on Samoan adoptions and counseled us to pursue a parent-initiated adoption.

Patty Howard, 132 103rd Avenue N.W., Coon Rapids, MN 55433

BRAZIL--THE CURRENT ADOPTION SITUATION

Our sympathies go out to the three adoptive parents who have been waiting in Rio de Janeiro all these months for their baby's passports so that they can return to the United States. Their child-placing source, the Blumers, have been investigated by the Brazilian authorities. No evidence of wrong-doing has been found. Unfortunately, the baby's passports have not been issued, which means that the adoptive parents cannot obtain U.S. visas for their children. Their plight has been reported in many newspapers around the country and is also covered in Newsweek International
"A Brisk Trade in Children" November 2, 1981.

Just what this situation means in other states of Brazil is not known at this time. While Brazil is larger than the United States and adoptions do take place in other Brazilian cities, Rio de Janeiro is the only U.S. visa-issuing post in Brazil.

We hope that anyone having information on adoptions in other Brazilian cities by U.S. citizens will write us.

COLOMBIAN ADOPTIONS

OUR TEN WEEK WONDER--Nathan Joseph

When we married in May of 1979, adoption was the farthest thing from our minds. Since we were both in our thirties when we married, we planned to start a family immediately. After seventeen months, fertility tests and surgery, we discovered that Margaret was pregnant. Our joy was short lived because in January, 1981, Margaret delivered a premature stillborn son. Because the doctors were not sure whether future pregnancies would be successful, we decided to look into adoption.

We both knew our chances of getting an American-born infant were zero, but we didn't realize how frustrating our first inquiries into international

adoption would be. We were turned down by several agencies. We were either too old (Dick is 38) or not married long enough. Finally, Margaret recalled reading an article about Hope International Family Services in Stillwater. They had no age or marriage requirements so we attended an inquiry meeting in March and signed up to have our home study done.

With our home study proceeding nicely, we still faced the problem of locating a child. Other adoptive parents were eager to offer the names of the agencies and individuals they had used, but those sources were well passed around and would have required a wait of two to four years. We believed there had to be places that were not so well known which would have shorter lists. But where could we get that kind of information? Our buddy family suggested we try Jean Erichsen, an authority on Latin American adoptions.

We made an appointment with Jean for March 27 and left that conference with high hopes and three addresses in Colombia. During April and May we sent letters to three Bienestar offices. The first reply indicated that we should expect to wait at least two years. The second reply was not from the Bienestar office but from a lawyer who had seen our letter and promised good service for only \$4,300! At this point we were greatly discouraged. Margaret made plans to return to teaching in the fall and we tried to accept the fact that we would not become parents until we were at least 36 and 40.

But then, on June 3 (only three weeks after we had mailed our inquiry), we received a letter from the Bienestar office in Neiva They had an eight month old boy for us. The next day one of Dick's fellow employees (from Spain) called Neiva for us. It was true. We only had to send our papers.

Our home study had just been completed and we had gathered some documents but not all—and nothing had been translated. When Dick excitedly shared his news at work he learned that the wife of another employee was leaving for Bogota in one week and would take our papers—if we had them ready. (One week to have them prepared, translated, typed, notarized, authenticated and copied.) Thanks to an efficient translator and the help of friends, we had our papers ready to go on June 10—one week after receiving the referral!

Over the next weeks, we did the many things all adoptive parents dogather more documents (Neiva sent a second list), visit immigration, decorate a room, etc. Suddenly it was July 18 and we sat nervously at the airport more or less ready to begin our trip to Neiva. We were in a state of shock. It had happened too quickly. What were we doing going to South America? What if we disliked the child? What would we encounter in Neiva? A friend from Colombia had never head of Neiva. Jean had informed us that Neiva's adoption program was quite new—she knew of no one who had been there—so we had no information to go on. Jean told us not to worry—we would be the pioneers, breaking new ground for future adoptions. Adding to the turmoil were transportation problems in Miami where we received the last two seats on a 747 (after many tears) and in Bogota where we learned that neither our tickets nor our reservations were valid for the flight to Neiva.

In Neiva we were quite dependent on Skip and Nancy Conlon, a Spanish speaking couple from California who were also adopting through Bienestar.

During our ten day stay in Neiva they were our translators and friends. No one at Bienestar or the hotel spoke English so we relied on the Conlons to make phone calls, etc.

On July 20, the day after we arrived in Neiva, we met our son. Margaret readily admits it was not love at first sight. He was suffering from malnutrition and at the age of one year weighed fifteen pounds and wore six month clothing. At our first meeting all he did was cry--a sick, weak little cry. He was certainly not the picture of health, but he was to be ours.

So on July 21, exactly ten weeks after we sent our inquiry letter to Neiva, Nathan was given to us. Although he screamed for the first two hours, he was comfortable with us within a few hours and at last we had our child.

During our stay in Neiva we continued to encounter problems—delays and language problems. One of our fondest memories is of Dick trying to make airline reservations at an office he later discovered was the doctor's office next door to the airline office. No wonder they laughed when he flapped his arms to show that he wanted to fly.

International adoptions are still new to Neiva so our adoption of Nathan made front page news in the local paper. The Bienestar director also called a news conference to discuss the international adoption program. For the first half of the news conference we faced reporters who spoke no English. Only after the Conlons arrived were we able to answer the reporters' questions. The people at the Bienestar were wonderful. They did everything they could to help us through the adoption.

Even though our stay seemed long at times, at last it was August 1, Nathan's first birthday, and we were boarding a plane in Bogota. We were both tired and several pounds lighter, but we were happily clutching two U.S. passports, one Colombian passport, one U.S. visa and one wonderful son. But of course the most wonderful moment of all was getting off the plane in Minneapolis and being surrounded by friends and relatives eager to meet our ten week wonder boy.

Since we brought Nathan home three months ago, he has gained more than five pounds, walks with confidence and says a few words. Its hard to believe he's the same child given to us in July--the child that took only ten weeks to become ours--the child that fills our home with laughter, excitement, and love. Much love.

Richard/Margaret Schlotfeldt, 1151 Ruggles, Roseville, MN 55113

Ed. Note: This couple came to me for a consultation in March, 1981. I had just learned of a new adoption program in Neiva through my Colombian friend Juan Hoyos Fonseca who had read about it in a Bogota newspaper. By sheer coincidence, the Conlons ordered a Colombian adoption portfolio when the Schlotfeldts came in for a consultation. Both applied to Neiva and ended up there at the same time. Their children are the first to be adopted through Neiva by U.S. citizens, as far as we know.

THE DEPARTMENTS OF CUNDINAMARCA AND TOLIMA by Shelley Cruz

Just today I had a chance to see a copy of your new book, <u>Gamines:</u>
<u>How to Adopt from Latin America</u>. I found it most interesting and informative. I wish you the best of luck with its sales.

Our family spent one month in Colombia this summer, including ten days in Ibague. We had the delightful experience of visiting el DORMITORIO DON BOSCO, where Padre Retamoso cares for 160 boys aged 8-18, in a converted monastery. I thought you might like to see the pictures of Don Bosco (you may keep them).

The little girl in shorts is my daughter Elizabeth, who is two years old. The boy sitting in the middle of the 8-10 year olds is my son Alberto, who is nine.

We also visited: Casa del Nino, Calle 19 No. 3-66, Ibague, Colombia, South America where children under six are cared for, but we did not see the children. We were told by the directress that families could write directly to Casa del Nino for adoption applications. They are under the direction of Bienestar/Ibague. They do also have children under a year old.

Bienestar/Bogota suggested that couples apply to Dra. Elsey de Jaramillo, Adoptions, Calle 21, #7A-11, Giradot, Cundinamarca, Colombia, South America. I have written two letters there since August 20, and have not received any reply. I just wanted to ask her if there are indeed children available for adoption, as so many people ask me for new sources.

Helpful people to know in Colombia:

Lucia Medina Pho Calle 87 No. 8-14 Apto. 403

Bogota, Colombia

Phone: 256-78-72 after 8 p.m. 213-04-47 day

Lucia has acted as a liaison, has escorted older children to Oregon, provides lodging and breakfast in her home, and is very familiar with the adoption process through several bienestar offices. She is a lovely person and speaks English. Her fees have been very reasonable.

Phone: 36-465

Blanca and Jack Shapiro Carrera 4 D No. 39-35 La Macarena Ibague, Tolima Colombia

The Shapiros offer lodging, meals, transportation and interpreting services to couples while in Ibague for adoption. They have a comfortable home, not far from Bienestar. They have been charging \$15.00 per day for the room with private bath, and meals are extra. Jack Shapiro is an English teacher at the Conservatory of Music in Ibague. His wife lived in the U.S. for ten years and speaks English well.

If, by any chance, your family would be interested in adopting a boy age 8-12, please write to:

Padre Retamosco Dormitorio Don Bosco Apartado Aereo 613 Ibague, Tolima Colombia South America

Shelley Cruz, 11 Birch Road, Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525

THE NEW ECUADORIAN ADOPTION LAWS by Daniel Giles, a linguist and adoptive father recently returned from Ecuador

Ecuadorian Congressional Minutes #267
Date of Decree September 3, 1981 Date of Publication September 9, 1981

Article I.

Considering all the problems that have happened, we decree the following regulations for the adoption of minors by foreign residents residing outside of Ecuador.

Foreigners shall appear personally before the Juvenile Court of the area in which the child lives to present a petition referred to in Article 181 and accompanied by their birth certificates, which are mentioned in the same Article.

- 1. In addition, they must present a copy of the law which regulates adoption in their foreign country.
- 2. These documents must be notarized and authenticated in the adopter's home country.
- 3. A home study from the social service in the adopter's home country must also be included.

If the adoption is solicited by a married couple, both must appear in Ecuador. They must, with the previously mentioned documents, the home study and the marriage license, appear before the court.

The Juvenile Court shall examine their documents listed in Article 183. The Judge will examine them and ask the opinion of the attorney, after which he will submit the case to the Juvenile Court.

Article IV.

Before giving this resolution, the court shall approve an Ecuadorian couple to act as sponsors for the adoption. This couple must be ideal people, both morally and economically.

This couple shall sponsor the adoption for five years, beginning at the date of the court's resolution of the adoption decree. If the sponsors terminate their contract, the adoptive parents must find new sponsors. If not, the old sponsors or their heirs must take over the position of sponsorship until another sponsor is found.



PHOTOGRAPHS

Born in the village of Fusi, on the Island of Savaii, TARA
SEASON
HOWARD
Arrived 6/29/81
from Western
Samoa at about
41/2 months.

THE FOLLOWING PHOTOS WERE TAKEN

by Dr. J.D. Zamboni Captions by Kathy Zamboni *BOY OF WESTERN SAMCA

SALOMI A
TONGAN
GIRL ON
THE ISLAND
CF VAVII

POLYNESIAN GIRLS OF WESTERN SAMOA

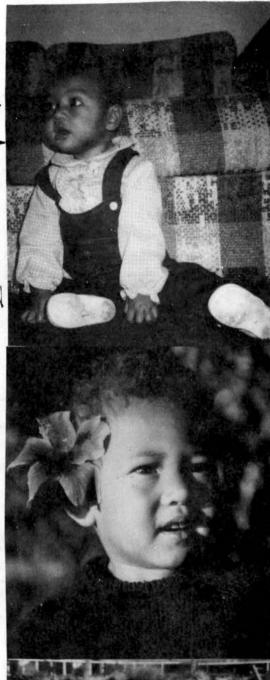




ALONG FIGIS
CORAL COAST
WE STOPPED
OUR CAR TO
PHOTOGRAPH
A MAN TILLING
THE FIELDS
WITH HIS OXEN
HIS CHILDREN
SHYLY CAME
OVER TI OFF.
ERED THEM A
PICKE OF BRIAN
AND THEN THE
ANTERS BELAN.

OUR PEPE 21/2, FROM EL SAUADOR MARINA, 4 1/2, FROM COLOMBIA. ARE IN THE FOREGROUND WITH THREE FLUIAN SCHOOL GIRLS ON A PKNIC AFTER EXAMS:SAWENI BEACH

THESE ARE TYPICAL CHILDREN -- NONE ARE ORPHANS





PHOTOGRAPHS

ATOP A
MOUNTAIN
PEAK IN
ACADIA
NATIONAL
PARK, MAINE,
ARE PIXIE
HOLBROOK,
JOHN RIOUX,
AND THER
CANDIDA,
OFELSALVADOR





NATHAN JOSEPH SCHLOTFELDT OF NEIVA COLOMBIA

SHELLEY
CRUZ
HER DAUGHTER
ELIZABETH
AND HERSON,
ALBERTO,
AT
DORMITORIO
DON BOSCO
IN
COLOMBIA

PADRE RETAMOSO IS THE DIRECTOR



THESE BOYS
AGED 8-18,
ARE AVAILABLE
FOR ADOPTION-(ORPHAN'S OVER
14 MUST
IMMIGRATE
UNDER THE
ADULT QUOTA
SYSTEM. THEY
ARE NOT
ELIGIBLE FOR
THE I-600).



CELEBRATION OF THE BATTLE OF BOYACA IN MINNEAPOLIS SPONSORED BY THE COLOMBIAN CONSULATE, COLOMBIAN-AMERICAN ASSN. LOS NIÑOS INT'L., PLAC, AND SEVERAL OTHER ADOPTION AGENCIES



Photographs by Shirley Wallner

Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar

Regional del Hulla



Adopción

Con el propósito de dar cumplimiento a la Ley 5 de 1975, la Regional del Huila, creó el Comité Regional de Adopciones en Marzo de 1980.

Organizó provisionalmente una casa de adopción en donde se atienden menores abandonados desde meses a 8 años de edad. Se les brinda atención integral para ser entregados posteriormente en adopción.

La adopción es la mejor medida de protección al menor abandonado; tendrán allí un hogar definitivo, disfrutarán de los derechos que la ley otorga a los hijos legítimos.

Director: Dr. Marco Fidel Gaita
Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar
Avenida Circunvalacion Calle 21
Neiva, Huila, Colombia
Telephone: 26072

Ley 7 de 1979

Todos los Programas que desarrolla la Regional del Huila son en su mayor parte financiados con el aporte patronal del 2% sobre la nómina mensual que determina la Ley 7 de 1979. Cumpla con su aporte y obtenga la deducción de impuestos, pagando en los primeros 15 días de cada mes, en los bancos Cafetero, Ganadero y Popular.

"TODO NIÑO ABANDONADO NECESITA UN HOGAR"

Hogar Infantil La Vorágine Neiva - Huila



El ICBF cuenta con 48 Hogares Infantiles, se atienden en cada uno desde 40 hasta 150 niños en edades entre 3 a 7 años.

In the resolution of the Tribunal de Menores the adoptive parents must register any change of residence, and they must ask their social services annually or oftener to perform a post-placement study. The adoptive parents must appear at the nearest diplomatic representative of Ecuador to have the study authenticated. The Representative will send it to the Dirreccion National Proteccion de Menores.

In every adoption decree that the Tribunal issues, the Tribunal has the right to terminate the adoption, either by the initiative of the Tribunal or on the basis of a petition which proves that the adoptive parents have infringed upon Ecuadorian law. Before termination, the sponsors shall be subpoenaed to disprove this petition.

In each case of adoption of minors planning to leave the country, the Tribunal must make the information available to the Secretary of State, with the purpose of explaning Ecuadorian law.

Ed. Note: While Ecuador is not the best source for adoptions right now (unless you know an ideal Ecuadorian couple) the Tribunal is not saying "no forever" to international adoptions. Perhaps after a few years pass without problems and scandals, Ecuador will ease some of these restrictions.

U.S. WAITING CHILDREN

In the past year, more legally freed Minnesota children have been permanently placed via adoption subsidy and adoption exchange laws. Both Minnesota laws are models for other states, and—more importantly—are working. We've seen a dramatic increase in placements of special needs youngsters—those who are older, handicapped, of minority background, or part of sibling groups. One hundred and eight children were added to the subsidized adoption program last year, and the majority of them were older. As of September 1, 1981, 36 of the 95 children in Minnesota's Waiting Children, the statewide exchange book administered by CCPC (Citizen's Coalition on Permanence for Children) had been placed. Average age of those placed was 8.6 years at the time of placement. (from the phamplet, "Building a Minnesota Coalition" which contains a registration form for a November 21, 1981 conference from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Levander-Rolvaag Room, College Center Building, Normandale Community College in Bloomington, Minnesota.)

NETWORKING

EL SALVADOR. Pixie Holbrook and John Rioux of Little City Road, Higganum, Connecticut 06441, are looking for information concerning the adoption of El Salvadorian children in their state of residence. Anyone with previous experience in adopting these children may wish to write to Pixie and John.

INDIA. B.J. and Ginger Fisher of R.R. 3, Oxbow Sub., Pinckneyville, IL 62274, recently received a referral of a baby girl from India through All God's Children, 13826 North 45th Avenue, Glendale, Arizona, 602/938-7847.

They would like to correspond with others who have adopted from this agency.

KOREA. Violet Pierce, Director of The Adoption Option, P.O. Box 3508, Littleton, Colorado, 80161, is interested in finding a way to adopt independently in Korea, in other words, a "parent-initated" adoption. Persons with information regarding this approach in Korea are invited to write to Ms. Pierce. (Please send Los Ninos a carbon copy, we'd like to know more, too).

INS in ILLINOIS. Ginger Fisher writes, We live in a very small town in Southern Illinois, about 400 miles from the Immigration and Naturalization Office in Chicago. I tried to get a call through for three weeks, but kept getting a busy signal. Finally we called the Federal Information number in Chicago and they gave us another number which they give out when they get complaints from people who can't get a call through. Due to lack of help, they keep the phone off the hook! (I did get a recording several times telling me to dial another number and leave a message of what forms I needed.) I left two recorded messages requesting an I-600 and an Affidavit of Support form, but I never received them.

Ed. Note: It may be easier to call for the forms through the Regional Commissioner at the following phone numbers and addresses:

Regional Commissioner - Western Region 213/548-2727 San Pedro (Terminal Island California 90731

Regional Commissioner - Eastern Region INS - 802/862-6501 Burlington, Vermont 05401

Regional Commissionæ - Northern Region INS - 612/725-4481 Federal Building - Fort Snelling Minneapolis, MN 55111

Regional Commissioner - Southern Region - 214/749-3396 1201 Elm Street, Room 2300 Dallas, Texas 75270

OUR READERS WRITE US

I would like to comment on a statement made in the August/September 1981 issue of LOS NINOS NEWS. On Page 2 you state that "A child psychologist of our acquaintance says, "Fewer adoption disruptions would occur if the prospective adopters had the courage to say no when they have been assigned a child that they know will never fit into their families." You are offering this as one of the advantages of parent-initated adoptions.

For many prospective adoptive families, the emotional strain of literally "picking out" their child is more than they care to undertake. Many parents feel it would be impossible to gaze at a group of children and single out one who is "right" for them. And so these families choose to adopt through an agency which assigns a child to them. The uncertainty of "did we choose the right child?" and the guilt of remembering the children left behind are therefore eliminated.

This is not to say that once an adoption agency has offered a child assignment to a family that this is irrevocable. Any family which is unsure about the "rightness" of a particular child should discuss this with their social worker. No social worker "worth their salt" will penalize a family for turning down an assignment for good reason. It is much better for all concerned that the adoption stop at this point rather than after the child is in the home.

Finally, I must question the statement that "fewer adoption disruptions" would occur if families met their children ahead of time. It has been my impression that this makes little difference and in some cases actually works against the adoption. (I am referring here to inter-country adoption.) When a family meets their new child at the airport, they are psychologically ready to "80 home and make a family" assuming of course that they have been educated to the realities of foreign adoption. There are doubts of course—there are fears and setbacks but the commitment has been made before the child even arrived. If the attitude is "try out this child and see what you think" then this will often undermine the adoption experience. When a problem arises, the thought is lurking in the back—ground that the child can be returned as this is only a tryout.

Parent-initiated adoption is a good resource for many families, but not for all.

Thank you for allowing me to share my viewpoint.

Barb Holtan, 1750 Deep Run Road, Whiteford, Maryland 21160

Ed. Note: Thank you Barbara, for sharing your opinions with us. It would be a dull world indeed, if we all thought alike. The concerns you raise are extremely important for adoptive parents to consider.

As you have said, parent-initiated adoption is a good resource for many adoptive families, but not for all.

In my experience, the adoptive parents "proceeding abroad to locate an orphan" (Immigration and Naturalization Service jargon) have handled this in one of two ways:

- 1. They are tentatively assigned a baby or child by an agency such as Casa de la Madre y el Nino in Bogota. Once the parents meet the child, they and the social worker decide whether or not the placement is in the best interest of the child. If not, they are told to wait until the age, sex and ethnic group they requested becomes available for adoption. Usually the wait has been less than a week.
- 2. With their home study, documents usually required by foreign agenies, and an I-600 clearance in hand, the adoptive parents make appointments with as many adoption sources in a foreign country that they have time to visit. (In Colombia, there are 30 adoption sources.)

They present their documents at this appointment and, if a baby or child is available of the age, sex, and ethnic group they have requested, they may be able to meet the child then. If not, and they have made a good impression with the agency, the agency will file their documents and assign them a child when one becomes available.

In both cases, the foreign agencies with which I am acquainted are very sensitive to the feelings of the orphans in their care. The children are told that the people coming to see them are visitors, which they are. In a group of orphanage children at any given time, some have already been assigned to parents, some are awaiting legal abandonment decrees or parental releases and the rest, of various ages, can be placed with a suitable family. These orphanages get a lot of visitors: philanthropists, clergy, volunteer helpers and on and on. However, it is sad but true that the small orphanage children probably think of each visitor as a prospective parent.

ANOTHER READER WRITES...

It is \underline{so} important that direct adoptions be promoted (parent-initiated) in such an organized way as yours so the intercountry adoption program bottlenecks and maddening waiting lists can be bypassed and many more children placed. Bravo!

Deborah McCurdy, RD 2 Box 145, Great Barrington, MA 02130

PUBLICITY by Jean Erichsen

Until yesterday, I did not know that two <u>Newsweeks</u> are published. The one I am familiar with is published for U.S. subscribers. <u>Newsweek International</u> is published for foreign subscribers on airmail paper and contains different articles.

Helena Joshee, a reporter for <u>Newsweek International</u>, interviewed me on five separate occasions during October and read <u>Gamines</u> to write an article covering the Dr. Vasquez Morales scandal in Colombia and the emigration problems of the children adopted by U.S. citizens through the Blumer family in Brazil. In addition, Ms. Joshee interviewed scores of other people involved with adoption agencies and parents' groups in this country.

The resulting article, "A Brisk Trade in Children," November 2, 1981, presents a dismal picture. Facts on legal adoptions as well as the gray and black market are presented, complete with documented cases of grey and black market arrangements. The article is very well written. Pictures of Dr. Vasquez, the children he bought, and the Blumer family with the babies under their care are included.

However, I would have liked to see more facts on legal adoptions presented in the article and a picture of a happy cross-cultural family. There is also a typographical error in the article which cites a mere 600 Colombian children adopted by U.S. and European couples last year. Actually, the U.S. Embassy in Bogota quotes a figure of over 1,000 orphan visas issued to U.S. adoptive parents last year and figures for the adoptions of Colombian children by Europeans last year is probably the same or higher. This has been the pattern in former years.

The article will certainly make any prospective parent look before they leap. We can only hope that the article will not completely discourage prospective adopters from seeking a Latin American adoption source.

To obtain a copy of this article, write Newsweek International, 444 Madison AVenue, New York, N.Y. 10022.

The adoption situation in Latin American has developed into this sorry state of affairs because many potential parents do not know how to legally adopt a child. And the gray and black entrepreneurs have taken advantage of their desperation and their innocence concerning state, immigration and foreign adoption laws.

Because our book, <u>Gamines</u>: <u>How to Adopt From Latin America</u> tells prospective adopters and social workers how to facilitate a legal adoption and how to ferret out the grey and black marketeers, <u>Newsweek</u> used the book as a reference. <u>Gamines</u> has received excellent reviews from those who understand the global impact of international adoptions and realize how this book can promote <u>legal</u> international adoptions.

Gamines; How to Adopt From Latin America is on the shelves at B. Dalton book stores around the country or may be ordered from them through Dillon Press or Los Ninos. The hatchet jobs done on Gamines by a few adoptive parent's newsletters who felt threatened by its publication will not influence Gamines sales or longevity. The plans for this book are the same as the plans for travel books; they are revised and updated when they are reprinted and they are reprinted year after year.

A lot of energy is expended by adoptive parent's groups by this kind of competitive behavior. Let us hope that in 1982 they consider rechanneling their energies and cooperate in stamping out the grey and black markets which have been operating far too long as it is. The adoptive parents' groups have enough members and political clout to effectively change this dismal situation of supply and demand; gray and black markets.

 $\frac{\text{FAMILY CIRCLE}}{24,\ 1981,\ \text{explains foreign adoption with a heart-warming article,}}{\text{personal stories and pictures.}}\ \text{Wonderful reading for pre- and post-adoptive parents.}$

THE PHIL DONAHUE SHOW

Dillon Press, our publisher, sent a press release and a copy of <u>Gamines: How to Adopt From Latin America</u> to the show's producer. If you would like to see us present the legal side of Latin American adoptions stressing the joys of cross-cultural adoptive families, please write:

DONAHUE Sheri Singer, Producer Multimedia Program Productions 2501 Bradley Place Chicago, IL 60618

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF NEW ADOPTION AGENCIES

Norma L. Cucci, M.S.W., A.C.S.W. Adoption Associates, Inc. 300 East Joppa Road, B-20 Towson, Maryland 21204 Madeline Daniels, Director CACA P.O. Box 190, Kendall Square Station Cambridge, MA 02142

NEW PUBLICATIONS ON ADOPTION

Adopted Child, a professional monthly publication, is designed to help you deal with being an adoptive parent. You may send for a sample copy to Adopted Child, P.O. Box 9362, Moscow, Idaho 83843. The Editor is Lois \overline{R} . Melina.

Adoptive Kinship, by H. David Kirk. His new book as a systematic inspection of the connections between the interpersonal and the institutional contexts of adoptive kinship. The book is \$11.95. Order from Ben-Simon Publications, P.O. Box 867, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada N2J 4C3.

U.S. COMMITTEE FOR UNICEF, Publications and Educational Materials Catalog, 1981-82. This 10 page catalog offers color slide sets, educational materials, fun and games, books, music, and country kits on Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Order from UNICEF, United Nations Children's Fund, 331 East 38th St., New York, N.Y. 10016. 211/686-5522.

UNICEF's Information Center on Chidlren's Cultures is a unique service of the U.S. Committee for UNICEF whose primary objective is to introduce American children to the children of other lands and cultures. The center, located in New York, is open to visitors and also answers mail and telephone inquiries from the public. Basic questions that relate to childhood in different cultures are answered by lists of recommended books and other materials that are sent free of charge (in single copies). These cover general informational topics. (e.g. Arts and Crafts, Pen Pals, Holidays around the world, etc.) or specific countries (e.g. Kenya, Israel, Mexico, etc.).

PLEASE SEND US YOUR ARTICLES, LETTERS AND PICTURES

I have loved editing this newsletter because so many of you contributed. I can't thank you enough, especially since I know what a struggle writing can be. I hope that our friends and subscribers and board members continue to contribute in coming issues. Your stories and concerns written in your own words are special and unique. Please send them, as well as any new information you have on adoption. And, of course, send your pictures. Your stories and pictures enable us to share your adoption and travel experiences. And they encourage those who are just beginning their first steps into the world of adoption. I eagerly await your letters.

BOOKS

Gamines: How to Adopt From Latin America, by
Jean Nelson-Erichsen and Heino R. Erichsen, provides
the first comprehensive, practical guide to adopting from
24 Latin American countries. The stories of once-abandoned
children and their adoptive parents, as well as the names and
addresses of over 80 child-placing sources, are included.
Hard cover. 352 pages. Photos.

amir

- How to Adopt From Asia, Europe and the South Pacific. by the same authors. Covers 24 countries; the names and addresses of over 80 child placing sources as well as their procedures. Soft cover. 126 pages. Photos.
- How to Adopt Internationally has been replaced by the books above
- The Adoption Kit by the same authors. An introduction to the current adoption situation in the United States. Covers questions usually asked by married and single prospective parents, such as: how long it takes, what the requirements are, where the children are, and the costs involved. Lists names and addresses of public agencies, photo listing books, programs for minority children and Indochinese refugees. Foreign resources included.

 Soft cover. 44 pages.

NEWSLETTER

Los Niños News. Edited by Jean Nelson-Erichsen. A bi-monthly report on the latest communications with official sources of adoption information in Africa, Asia, Europe Latin America and the South Pacific, as well as pictures and adoption stories.

BULLETIN BOARD SETS

- International Children. Written by Jean Nelson-Erichsen, this bulletin board set with 16 exotic bazaar booths feature children and cultural offerings from 22 countries areas of the world. 16 page guide. Scenes range to 10" x 14". Bright and colorful, this cultural resource features Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, India, Korea, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.
- International Christmas. Children of 15 nations in national costumes promote interest in Christmas observances in other lands. Figures range to 27".



Prices include tax and Fourth Class postage, with delivery in 2-3 weeks. If you wish speedier delivery, send \$5.00 extra for First Class & handling. Foreign residents, please add \$10.00 to Air Mail books and bulletin sets.

LOSED IS MY CHECK FOR:	A A
 Correspondence course on international adoptions	.\$70.00
 Gamines: How to Adopt From Latin America	.\$13.95
 How to Adopt From Asia, Europe and the South Pacific	.\$13.95
 Adoption Kit	.\$5.95
 Los Ninos News. Yearly subscription, U.S. residents (Foreign subscriptions, \$30.00, including air mail & packaging)	.\$15.00 \$30.00
 International Children, bulletin board set	.\$ 6.95

International Christmas, bulletin board set......\$ 5.95

OUT-OF-STATE

LOS NINOS INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION SERVICES

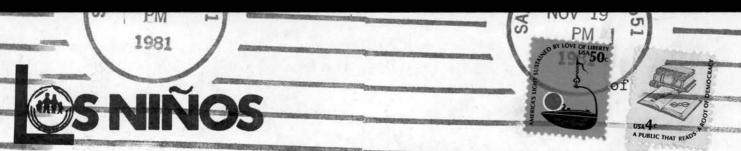
Please fill in the form on the next page for services I, II, or III

0.00
0.00
5.00
0.00

OUT-OF-STATE

LOS NINOS INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION SERVICES

PERSONAL DATA FORM	
Please submit your check forwi	th this form.
Name(s)	Initial consultation
Address	*Be certain to order one or both
and the response to the second of the first of the	texts for the course:
	TEXTS - Gamines: How to Adopt From Latin America 13.95
Dhana	From Latin America 13.95 - How to Adopt From Asia
PhoneWill you accept a collect call?	Europe and the South Pacific
Child you are requesting. Age: minimum	m and maximum to
Sex Elther sex! Nationality	preterences
Ethnic preferences	ling group?
Maximum age and minimum age in sibling of	group?
Sexes	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
Health Can you assent a bandisanned abild?	
Can you accept a handicapped child? Correctible handicap?	Non-correctible handicap?
List the kinds of handicaps you can cope	e with
HOME STUDY INFORMATION	
foreign orphan to share with your foreign	completion?e's requirements and procedures to adopt a gn adoption source if they ask for it?
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE ((INS)
Have you applied for an I-600 Petition? Have you been cleared by the F.B.I.? Have you written a summary of how the IN your state's requirements in order to in foreign adoption source if they ask for	NS requirements must be coordinated with mmigrate an orphan, to share with your
PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE PARENTS INFORMATION	I
Nationality(ies)	
Citizenship(s) Educational level(s)	
Ability to travel?	Languages One or both?
How long can you stay abroad?	One or both?
Do you have any contacts in a foreign co	
Religion(s) General health	Handi cana?
	Handicaps?
If married, are you infertile?	
Do you prefer a "parent-initiated" adopt	ion?Escort?
The cost of a foreign adoption is between you adopt from a private agency or a public country and the airfare. How much money	en \$2,500 and \$6,000 depending upon whether olic agency, the economy of the foreign are you budgeting?



Los Niños International Adoption and Information Center 919 West 28th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408

Trene Betike
4649 Decatur Ave No
New Hope MN 55428

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Project Director/Editor.....Jean Nelson-Erichsen
Business Manager/Consultant....Heino R. Erichsen
Hispanic Affairs Consultant....Irene Gomez de Bethke
ADVISORY BOARD

Mark and Nancy Cooper, Concern for Children, Ohio Wilma Dorsey, Lifeline for Children, Florida Pixie Holbrook, John Rioux, Connecticut Betty Laning, ODS/ICCC, Massachusetts Anne McManus, HOPE International Family Services, Minnesota Anna Marie Merrill, ICCC, Colorado Pat Sexton, FCVN, ODS, ICCC, Pennsylvania Jo Spicuzza, Project Orphans Abroad, Ohio Maxine Sullivan, Amigos, Oregon Judith Vincent, Attorney-at-law, Adoptive parent, Minnesota Kathy Zamboni, COAC of California

TYPIST Ann Sinnott

LAYOUT

Jean Erichsen