AGENCIES LICENSED FOR INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION

EVELYN HOWARD
Education and Public Welfare Division

January 14, 1970
Agencies Licensed for Intercountry Adoption

Many couples in the United States wish to adopt children from a foreign country. As in adoptions within the United States, there are two main ways in which one can adopt an overseas child. First, one can go abroad or be stationed abroad so that a positive relationship with a child has been established before taking steps for adoption. The second way, and most reliable, is working through a licensed agency within the United States. One can first apply to a public or private adoption agency or to the State department of welfare.

Children being adopted must be within the set immigration quota limits, they must have passports and must be naturalized according to regular State Department procedure. A child fathered by an American has the rights of American citizenship if the father acknowledges his paternity in writing before the proper witnesses.

The following agencies work with intercountry adoption by being an intermediary between the U. S. adoption agency and the local agency or organization in the foreign country.
International Social Service, Inc.
American Branch
345 East 46th Street
New York, New York 10017
212-687-2747

The International Social Service, or ISS, is probably the best known of the agencies assisting in adoption of foreign children in nearly every country. The agency works closely with the recognized adoption agencies in each State and agencies in the foreign countries. It also provides the necessary information concerning intercountry adoption.

United States Catholic Conference
Migration and Refugee Services
201 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10003
212-475-5400

Emphasis is given to intercountry adoption of eligible orphans and unaccompanied children of the Catholic faith under 18 years of age. The agency works with children in any country and places them in Catholic families within the United States.

The United HIAS Service (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society)
200 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10003
212-674-6800

This agency does relief work of all kinds. It assists people in
the Jewish faith who are interested in intercountry adoption. In mixed marriages, services are given when the head of the household is of the Jewish faith. Adoption of foreign Jewish children is rare, however, since few are considered to be in need of adoption.

Holt Adoption Program
82630 North Howe Lane
Creswell, Oregon 97426
503-895-2202

This program assists in intercountry adoption of Korean-American and Korean children.