

Saigon Approves 3 Child Care Centers

Long Wait Precedes Signature

SAIGON (CNS) — The Ministry of Social Welfare of the government of Vietnam has given full authorization and approval of the Vietnamese Orphans' Fund of the Royal Oak, Mich., Church of Christ.

Formal signature took place June 27 by Nguyen Xuan Phong, Secretary of State for Social Welfare, and C. Wayne Briggs, temporary director of the orphans' program. The government of Vietnam invited representatives of the press, radio, TV, and the



CHILDREN'S BUNKER—During attacks, children seek shelter in these home-made dugouts. Parents of most of these children were killed in the war.

Voice of America to witness the signing.

The church of Christ operates three child care centers under the name Vietnamese Orphans' Fund. They are located in Saigon, Trung My Tay (about 10

miles north of Saigon), and Danang.

Long Wait

The Church of Christ in Royal Oak had been working since last October to obtain the agreement. The Orphans' Fund is authorized by the Vietnam government to "engage in direct



BULLETS IN WALL — Supervisor Duong points to marks on "Plan of Salvation" chart where mortar fire hit inside orphanage.

and indirect relief programs for orphan children; to operate child care centers; and to engage in other social welfare activities."

The government has agreed to give tax-free status to the program. Assistance will be given

(Continued on Page 8)

Bullets Hit Hieu-Duc Orphanage

HIEU-DUC, South Vietnam — An orphanage in this town fifteen miles south of Danang has been caught in crossfire between Viet Cong and U.S.-South Vietnamese forces, although none of the orphans have been injured.

According to a Marine living in Hieu-Duc, a Viet Cong mortar shell landed near the orphanage, but it failed to explode. About two weeks later, South Vietnamese soldiers resting in front of the orphanage were killed. The marine claimed that the Viet Cong threaten the orphanage in order to draw out U.S. and South Vietnamese forces to protect the children.

Hieu-Duc is considered an "insecure area" by military officials. Travel is difficult, missionaries usually travel with U.S. military groups from Danang to the orphanage.