

INS Gives Brothers a Reprieve

4 more months in U.S. for 2 children

By Jack Viets
Chronicle Staff Writer

Two young Mexican brothers facing deportation and separation from their parents this weekend were allowed by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service yesterday to remain in the United States for four more months.

Their plight led more than 1,500 residents of the San Joaquin Valley town of Patterson to sign petitions and write letters urging immigration authorities in San Francisco to let the boys stay.

Since March, 1989, Eduardo Morales, 6, and his brother, Norberto, 3, have been living with their farm worker parents in the Stanislaus County town.

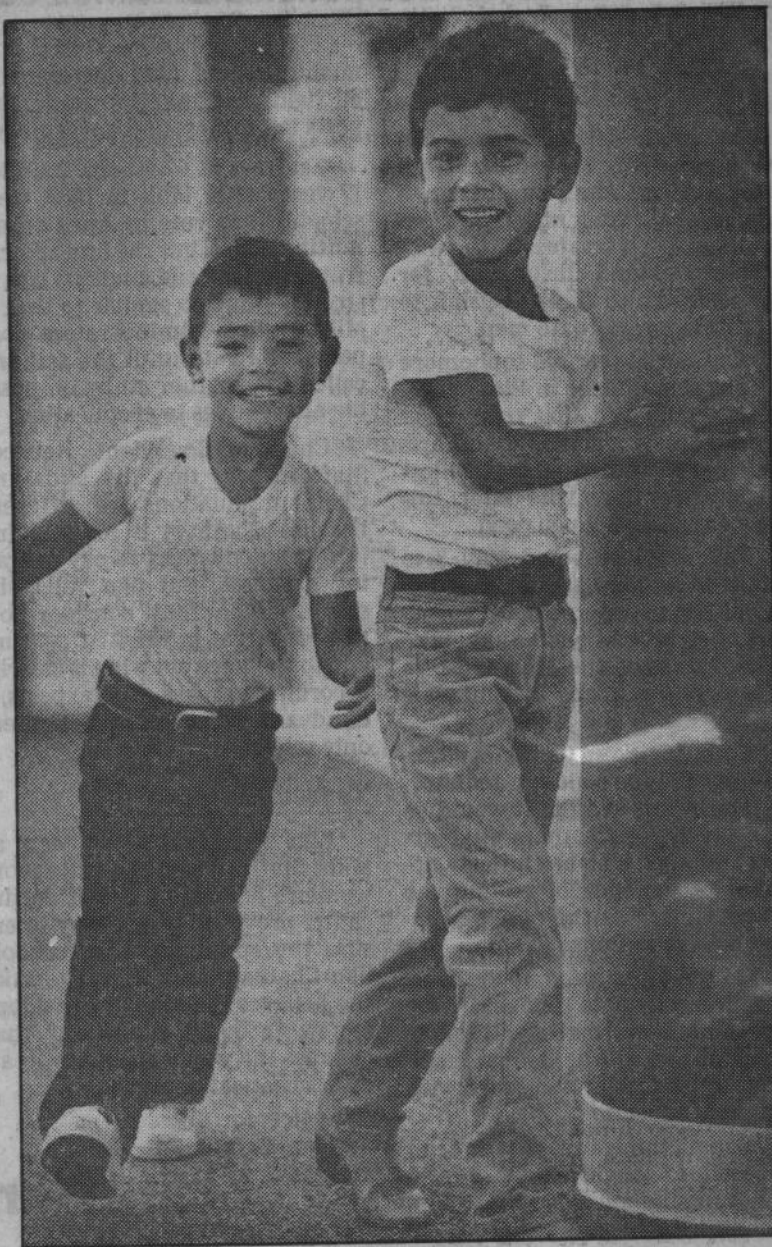
Eduardo is going to school, teaching his brother English, and likes living in the United States with his family "a lot," he said.

But because the two boys came from Mexico to live with their parents after the Immigration Reform and Control Act became effective November 6, 1986, they do not qualify for amnesty like their father and mother.

Although their farm worker parents are now temporary legal residents of the United States under the amnesty program, under the law, their sons are considered to be illegal aliens.

Rhoda Wilkinson Domingo, their attorney, said at a San Francisco press conference yesterday that the delay the INS granted the brothers will allow more time for Congress to pass remedial legislation to allow the children of temporary legal residents who were not living in the United States by the November 1986 deadline to qualify for amnesty like their parents.

"I feel appreciative," the boys' father, Eduardo, said yesterday, "but the solution is still to come."



BY STEVE RINGMAN/THE CHRONICLE

Norberto and Eduardo Morales, born in Mexico but whose parents are legal U.S. residents, played in their lawyer's office

Unless the legislation is fixed, the attorney said, tens of thousands of Mexican children living with their parents in the United States will be forced to return to Mexico. Their parents will face the agonizing choice of whether to leave their legal residence status and their jobs behind and return to Mexico to care for their children.

The INS began deportation proceedings against the brothers last year after their father drove

to Mexico to get them and paid another child to escort them across the border.

Immigration Judge Brian Simpson granted the brothers a six-month deportation stay that would have expired Sunday May 20 after their father testified that there is no one in his family who can care for the boys. "I need to be caring for them ... to teach them about good and bad ... to give them schooling so they will be good men," he said.