# Siamese Twins Survive Surgery Here

\* In a dramatic operation com-surgeon, two anesthetists, and Dr. Koop himself remarked completely on its heart, whose leheart of one of the tiny patients, fusions to the infants. Also pres-Siamese twin girls who had been ent were four nurses and two born joined at the pelvis nine days medical photographers, who film-this." previously were separated successfully yesterday at Children's Hospital, 1740 Bainbridge st.

A medical team of 14 experts accomplished the rare feat in two hours and 35 minutes, beginning at 8 A. M.

## FOUR PRIOR CASES

The operation was so uncommon, in fact-the American Medical Association said there have been only four prior cases in this HEART MASSAGED country in which such twins have that it never had been performed an operation demanding the skill soon as possible, before at Children's Hospital, in of many hands, but it was learn-WEIGHED 14 POUNDS the famed institution's 102-year ed that he made a quick incision history.

Patricia Schatz, daughters of Mr. empty of blood. chance to live a normal, unfet-later, the heart regained its nor-ounces. tered life was Dr. C. Everett mal beat. Koop, surgeon-in-chief at the hos- Doctors reported that although the infants were placed in sepapital.

### **OPERATION IS FILMED**

ogist, a plastic surgeon, a neuro- watched carefully.

ed the tense drama for the benefit of others who might perform the same operation elsewhere.

The actual separation of the infants, who were joined near the base of the spine, was completed a boy. at 9:20 A. M. and moments later, the heart of the smaller of the girls stopped, "possibly because according to Dr. Koop.

a congenital heart lesion, she suf- be kept for perhaps a week.

"they must be pretty good bables, surgery later." at that, to have gone through ORGANS ARE NORMAL

The Siamese twins were born, each infant. reportedly in a normal delivery, Attempts surgically to separate at Mercy Hospital, Rockville, Siamese twins have been conof the child's separation from the Children's Hospital Thursday when better anethetics, more po-Long Island, and were brought to fined largely to the last decade, night after the attending phy-tent drugs and new techniques sicians, who had heard of the combined to make such operalocal institution's reputation, de-tions feasible. Understandably, Dr. Koop was cided that an attempt should be FEW ARE SUCCESSFUL been separated and survived—reticent to talk about his role in made to separate them there as

in the child's chest and began birth, after which they soon lost here and abroad in recent years— Head of the medical team that manually massaging the heart, 14 ounces, which was considered have died under surgery or lived gave the twin girls, Pamela and which was at a standstill and normal. Yesterday, before the op. only a few days afterward. That eration, which followed intensive was largely due to the fact that and Mrs. John Schatz, of Park At the same time, a transfusion studies by the medical team, they the twins shared one or more vital ave., Carl Place, Long Island, a was given. About six minutes weighed together 13 pounds, seven organs that could not be surgi-

Immediately after the surgery the smaller infant was born with rate incubators, where they will

fered no apparent ill effects from Asked what the "chances" of s Dr. Koop was aided by a group the stoppage. They indicated, each infant were, Dr. Koop re-I of specialists that included a urol-however, that she would be plied: "Fine, for the larger baby, a That of the smaller one depends I

plicated by the stopping of the two doctors who gave blood trans- shortly after the operation, that sions would seem amenable to

The surgeon explained that each Children's Hospital, at the re-baby had a normal "set" of interquest of the infants' parents, de-nal organs. He said that addiclined to give any background in-tional plastic surgery might be formation, but it was learned that needed "months from now." in an the Schatzes have one older child, area about four inches in diameter at the point of separation of

Few of the attempts, however, have met with complete success. Most of the twins involved-and The twins weighed 14 pounds at there have been dozens of cases cally divided.