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44523
SECT 01 OF 44520

ACTION

DISTR CJCSI(04) DJS(03) SJCS(02) J3(04) J3(10) J4(08) J5(02)
NMCC JRC SECDEF(04) SECDEF ASDISA(10) ASDIPA(01) GC(01)
MCCC CMC
CSAF WASH DC
CNO WASH DC
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EPAD FILE(1)
(050)

TRANSIT/032121Z/040334Z/000113TOR1240329
DE RUENAAA #7071 1240256
ZNR UUUUU ZOV RUENAAA9015 REROUTE OF RUHSGG7071 1322121
RUEKJCS T OASD/PA WASHINGTON DC
O 032121Z MAY 75
FM USS OKINAWA
TO RUHGPMA/CTF SEVEN SIX
INFO RUENAAA/OASD/PA WASHINGTON DC
RUHQHQA/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
RHHMBRA/CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
RUENAAA/CHINFO WASHINGTON DC
RUHQHQA/CGFMPPAC CAMP HM SMITH HI
ZEN/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR
RHHIAAA/CINCPAC PACEN CLARK AB RP
BT

CHRON	✓	MVT BRD	
BRIEFER	✓	JPG	
SOF		CRISIS	
READY		PO	
GOLF		EX BD	
PA	←		
WO	✓		

UNCLAS //N05720// SECTION ONE OF TWO
FREQUENT WIND POST OPERATION UPDATE BRIEFING
1. BRIEF WAS CONDUCTED BY LCDR GARY MC CONNEL, OKINAWA HELICOPTER
DIRECTION CONTROL OFFICER AND HIS ASSISTANT MAJ EARL BUFTON,
USMC AT 030930H MAY FOR EIGHTY-FIVE (85) EMBARKED MEDIA, FOLLOWING
A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HELICOPTER AND AMPHIBIOUS TERMINOLOGY,
A FIFTEEN (15) MINUTE PRESENTATION ON THE CONCEPT OF THE OPERATION,
POSITIONING OF FORCES AND A DESCRIPTIVE EXPLANATION OF THE
HELICOPTER FLOW PLAN TO THE LANDING ZONES AND RETURN WAS PRESENTED.
A THIRTY-MINUTE Q AND A SESSION FOLLOWED, CAPT CHARLES J MOORE,
CO, USS OKINAWA AND LCDR TONY DE MARCO, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER,
PARTICIPATED ALONG WITH THE ABOVE MENTIONED OFFICERS IN RESPONDING
TO QUERIES, MORE SIGNIFICANT QUESTIONS FOLLOW, NOT A VERBATIM
RECORD:

(1) Q, HOW MANY MARINES WENT ASHORE?

A, CLOSE TO A THOUSAND, (LATER REFINED TO 840).

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- (2) Q: HOW MANY AIRCRAFT WERE LOST IN THE OPERATION AND UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES?
A: ONE CH-46 SAR AIRCRAFT DITCHED NEAR THE HANCOCK FROM UNKNOWN CAUSE AND ONE COBRA(UH-1J) GUNSHIP WAS LOST DUE TO HAD FUEL STARVATION.
- (3) Q: DID ANY OF THE MARINES IN THE LANDING ZONE BECOME ENGAGED; EITHER WITH THE NVA OR SOUTH VIETNAMESE FORCES?
A: I DO NOT KNOW.
- (4) Q: WELL; WHAT ABOUT THE AIRCRAFT?
A: YES SIR, THE HELOS RECEIVED FIRE.
- (5) Q: WERE ANY HIT?
A: ONE HELO ON THIS SHIP HAD A BULLET HOLE IN IT.
- (6) Q: WHAT IS FUEL ENDURANCE OF YOUR HELOS?
A: APPROXIMATELY TWO HOURS FOR CH-46 AND CH-53, BUT IT VARIES WITH THE LOAD. A COBRA GUNSHIP HAS ABOUT THREE HOURS OF FLYING TIME AND A HUEY ABOUT TWO AND ONE HALF HOURS.
- (7) Q: WHAT ARE THE NORMAL FLYING HOURS FOR A PILOT?
A: IT VARIES WITH TACTICAL SITUATIONS.
- (8) Q: WHEN IS THAT PILOT TIRED?
A: NORMALLY AT ABOUT EIGHT HOURS.
- (9) Q: HOW MANY HOURS WERE THE PILOTS FLYING?
A: I DON'T KNOW THEIR AVERAGES, BUT SOME PILOTS FLEW AS MANY AS FOURTEEN HOURS DURING THIS OPERATION.
- (10) Q: WHAT TIME DID THE LAST HELO DEPART SAIGON?
A: ZERO SEVEN FORTY SIX, (0746)
- (11) Q: WHAT WAS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CASUALTIES?
A: TWO MARINES AS A RESULT OF A CH-46 CRASH IN THE VICINITY OF THE USS HANCOCK; THERE WERE ALSO TWO MARINES KILLED AT THE DAO COMPOUND BEFORE THE EVACUATION BEGAN.
- (12) Q: ~~WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THE TWO MARINES?~~ (FROM THE DAO COMPOUND)
A: I DON'T KNOW.
- (13) Q: APPROXIMATELY HOW MANY SORTIES WERE FLOWN DURING THE EVACUATION?
A: THERE WERE ABOUT FIVE HUNDRED AND NINETY (590) SORTIES.
- (14) Q: WHO HAD CONTROL OF THE OPERATION TO KEEP CARRIERS AND HELICOPTERS FROM RUNNING OVER EACH OTHER?
A: WE HAD CONTROL OF HELICOPTERS OVER THE WATER AND HANDED OFF CONTROL OF THE HELICOPTERS WHEN THEY CROSSED THE BEACH AND WENT QUOTE FEET DRY, UNQUOTE.
- (15) Q: WELL, WHO HAS CONTROL OF YOU?
A: CTF SEVEN SIX, REAR ADMIRAL WHITMIRE.
- (16) Q: WHAT TIME DID YOU RECEIVE THE FIRST VIETNAMESE HELICOPTER IN

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YOUR AREA OF OPERATION, AND HOW MANY CAME IN DURING THE OPERATION.

A: THE FIRST HELO, A CH-47 LANDED ON BLUE RIDGE ON THE EVENING OF 28 APRIL. TOTAL NUMBER IS UNKNOWN.

(17) Q: WERE THEY COMING TO YOUR SHIPS DURING THE OPERATION? AND DID THIS AFFECT YOUR OPERATION?

A: YES, THEY DID, IT AFFECTED OUR NORMAL LANDING AND TAKEOFFS. IN THAT WE WERE TRYING TO LAUNCH AND SOME OF THEM WERE TRYING TO LAND.

(18) Q: HOW MUCH EARLIER SHOULD THE OPERATION HAVE STARTED?

A: I CAN'T ANSWER THAT QUESTION.

(19) Q: THERE WERE A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT PICKUP SPOTS, WHAT WAS THE THINKING BEHIND THIS?

A: I REALLY CAN'T ANSWER AT THIS LEVEL; THAT DETERMINATION IS MADE AT A HIGHER LEVEL.

(20) Q: HOW MANY VIETNAMESE WERE ABOARD THE LAST HELO TO LEAVE SAIGON?

A: THERE WERE NO VIETNAMESE ABOARD, THE LAST HELO LIFTED OUT ELEVEN MARINES.

(21) Q: WHY WERE THERE NO VIETNAMESE ABOARD THE LAST HELO?

A: I DON'T KNOW.

(22) Q: WHAT TIME WAS THE CH-53 LIFTS TERMINATED? WHY WERE THEY TERMINATED? AND WHY WERE THE 46'S NOT TERMINATED?

A: WE WERE TOLD BY HIGHER AUTHORITY AROUND MIDNIGHT TO STOP CH-53 LIFTS, CH-53'S CANNOT LAND ON TOP OF THE EMBASSY ROOF TOP HELIPAD, CH-46'S COULD LAND ON THE ROOF TOP.

L Q: DID YOU TAKE ANY PEOPLE OFF OF THE ROOF TOPS?

A: NO.

(24) Q: WHAT TIME DID THE AMBASSADOR ARRIVE?

A: ABOUT 0430.

(25) Q: WAS THERE A PICK UP MADE OUT OF VUNG TAU?

A: NO.

(26) Q: OPTION FOUR IS WHAT PEOPLE AROUND THE WHITE HOUSE CALL THIS. HOW MUCH PLANNING WAS THERE DONE? WAS THERE POSSIBLY AN OPTION FIVE ALSO PLANNED TO PUT INTO EFFECT?

A: PLANNING FOR THIS OPERATION WAS QUITE SIMILAR TO THAT OF EAGLE PULL. IT WAS PLANNED FOR A LONG TIME AND CONTINUED RIGHT UP UNTIL A FEW HOURS BEFORE THE EXECUTION.

(27) Q: HOW MANY MORE OPTIONS WERE THERE? AND CAN YOU TELL US WHAT ONE, TWO AND THREE WERE?

A: OUR PRIMARY OPTION IS OPTION FOUR AND THAT'S WHAT WE ARE HERE TO TALK ABOUT.

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SECT 02 OF 44920

ACTION

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EPAD FILE(1)

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FM USS OKINAWA

TO RUHGPMA/CTF SEVEN SIX

INFO RUECSAA/OASD/PA WASHINGTON DC

RUHQHQA/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

RHHMBRA/CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

RUENAAA/CHINFO WASHINGTON DC

RUHQHQA/CGFMFPAC CAMP HM SMITH HI

ZEN/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR

RHHIAAA/CINCPAC PACEN CLARK AB RP

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UNCLAS //NO5720// SECTION TWO OF TWO

(28) Q: HOW MANY U.S. CASUALTIES WERE BUDGETED FOR?

A: WE DID NOT BUDGET FOR CASUALTIES. HOWEVER, WE DID HAVE EXTENSIVE MEDICAL FACILITIES FOR CASUALTIES.

(29) Q: HOW MANY FIGHTER BOMBERS WERE FLOWN TO PROVIDE AIRCOVER DURING THE OPERATION?

A: WE DO NOT HAVE THAT INFORMATION. WE HANDLE HELICOPTERS, NOT FIXED WING AIRCRAFT.

(30) Q: YOU KNEW YOU HAD AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE BUT YOU DID NOT KNOW HOW MANY?

A: THE OFFICER IN TACTICAL COMMAND CERTAINLY KNEW HOW MANY WE HAD AVAILABLE BUT OUR MAIN CONCERN WAS HELICOPTERS. IF WE NEEDED ANY FIGHTERS WE COULD HAVE GOTTEN THEM.

(31) Q: HOW MANY TIMES DURING THE NIGHT DID YOU CHANGE PLANS AFTER DISCUSSION WITH VIETNAMESE GENERALS?

A: I HAVE NO INFORMATION ON ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

(32) Q: IS IT TRUE THAT YOU HAVE ONE HELO ON THE DECK WITH MORE THAN

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TWELVE HOLES IN IT?

A: NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE.

(33) Q: WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THE VIETNAMESE HELICOPTERS NOW?

A: WE WILL OFF LOAD AT SUBIC. THE U.S. STILL HOLDS TITLE TO THEM.

(34) Q: WHY WAS THE OPERATION CONTINUED DURING THE NIGHT?

A: BECAUSE WE DID NOT WANT TO WAIT UNTIL THE NEXT MORNING.

(36) Q: WHAT WAS THE LIST OF INJURIES?

A: AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THERE WERE ONLY TWO. ONE WAS AN ELECTRICAL SHOCK CASE AND THE OTHER RESULTED FROM A FALL AT THE EMBASSY.

(37) Q: WERE YOU EXPECTING AIR AMERICA HELOS?

A: YES, WE WERE.

(38) Q: DID A COBRA RUN OUT OF GAS AND CRASH INTO THE SEA?

A: YES, AND THE TWO MAN CREW WAS RESCUED.

(39) Q: WHY DID THE COBRA RUN OUT OF GAS?

A: YOU ARE GETTING INTO A STICKY SUBJECT THERE. THERE HAS TO BE AN AIRCRAFT INVESTIGATION ON THIS MATTER AND WE DON'T DISCUSS THIS UNTIL THE INVESTIGATION IS OVER.

(40) Q: HOW MANY LANDING ZONES DID THEY USE?

A: WE USED TWO LANDING ZONES, THE DAO COMPOUND AND THE AMERICAN EMBASSY.

(41) Q: HOW MANY LANDING ZONES DID YOU KNOW ABOUT?

A: THIRTEEN.

(42) Q: WAS NEWPORT A LANDING ZONE AND WHY DIDN'T YOU USE IT?

A: YES IT WAS, WE WERE NOT DIRECTED TO GO THERE.

(43) Q: WERE WE INVOLVED IN THE AIR AMERICA COORDINATION?

A: NO, WE WERE NOT.

(44) Q: WHY WERE THERE ONLY FORTY FIVE HELICOPTERS USED WHEN THERE WERE MORE AVAILABLE?

A: FIRST OF ALL, LIMITED DECK SPACE FOR REFUELING AND LOADING TROOPS, SECONDLY, THERE IS ONLY SO MUCH AIRSPACE.

(45) Q: DID THE AMBASSADOR HAVE ANY DIRECT DECISION IN THIS? (NUMBER OF HELOS USED)

A: I DON'T KNOW.

(46) Q: WHEN IS THE HANCOCK GETTING IN?

A: I DON'T KNOW.

(47) Q: TO WHAT EXTENT OF YOUR PLANNING WAS THERE A POSSIBILITY OF ANY SOUTH VIETNAMESE HOSTILE ACTION?

A: WE MAKE PLANS TO PROTECT AGAINST HOSTILE FIRE REGARDLESS OF WHERE IT COMES FROM.

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ANNOTES

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ACTION

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 EPAD FILE(1)

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 RUEKJCS ZXY2
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 TO RUHRA/CTF SEVEN NINE
 INFO RUECSAA/OASD PA WASHINGTON DC
 RUECSAA/CMC PA WASHINGTON DC
 RUHQHQA/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
 RUHMBRA/CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
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 RUHIAAA/CINCPAC PACEN CLARK AB RP
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UNCLAS E F T O //N03720//

FREQUENT WIND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

1 CG 9TH MAR WAS INTERVIEWED BY AP, UPI AND NY TIMES REPS ON 3 MAY.

IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES BGEN CAREY SUPPLIED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- A. 880 MARINES WERE LANDED IN DAO COMPOUND;
- B. AN ADVANCED PARTY OF 15 CONTROL PERSONNEL AND A SECURITY PLATOON WERE INSERTED INTO THE COMPOUND PRIOR TO THE OPERATION;
- C. 6968 PERSONS WERE EVACUATED BY HELICOPTER;
- D. GSF COULD HAVE RETURNED FIRE IN SELF DEFENSE IF NECESSARY BUT DID NOT NEED TO DO SO;
- E. LIFT WOULD NOT HAVE CONTINUED FROM DAO COMPOUND IF HELICOPTERS CARRYING EVACUEES HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN. IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN NECESSARY TO MOVE TO ANOTHER LZ;
- F. A FULL REGIMENT OF THREE BLT'S IN EXCESS OF 4000 MARINES, WAS AVAILABLE FOR THE OPERATION;
- G. THE ONLY FATALITIES WERE TWO MARINES KILLED AT DAO COMPOUND AND TWO PILOTS LOST.

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#. MARINES SENT TO REINFORCE EMBASSY HAD NO SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT PULLING PEOPLE OVER COMPOUND WALLS. SUCH ACTIONS WERE ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE. ONE EMBASSY OFFICIAL DIRECTED MARINES TO ASSIST INDIVIDUALS IN A COUPLE OF CASES.

I. HE THOUGHT AVERAGE FLIGHT TIME FOR PILOTS WAS APPROXIMATELY 12 HOURS BUT SOME FLEW IN EXCESS OF 18 HOURS.

J. THERE ARE 54 MAN SECURITY DETACHMENTS ON MSC SHIPS CARRYING REFUGEES.

K. THE HELICOPTER LIFT SLOWED DOWN BECAUSE OF PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH LOADING PEOPLE AT NIGHT WHO WERE UNFAMILIAR WITH THE A/C. ALSO ONLY CH-46'S COULD FLY FROM ROOF OF EMBASSY AS THE CH-53 WAS TOO LARGE FOR THE EMBASSY HELO PAD.

L. INITIAL GLANS DID NOT CALL FOR LIFTING SO MANY PEOPLE OUT OF EMBASSY. MOST EVACUEES WERE TO GO TO DAO COMPOUND BY VEHICLE OR AIR AMERICA HELICOPTER. EXPECTED TO LIFT 800 PEOPLE FROM EMBASSY.

M. ABOUT 70 PLUS MARINE AND 10 USAF HELICOPTERS WERE USED IN THE OPERATION. ABOUT 600 SORTIES WERE FLOWN.

N. IN ADDITION TO GUNSHIPS NAVY AND USAF FIXED WING A/C WERE ON STATION OVER THE CITY INCLUDING A-7'S AND F-4'S.

O. IF IT WAS A MATTER OF SURVIVAL FIXED WING A/C COULD HAVE BEEN USED.

P. IN ORDER TO ASSIST A CONVOY OF NINE BUSES HAVING TROUBLE GETTING THRU SVN ROADBLOCKS AT TON SON NHUT, THE GENERAL CONSIDERED USING A/C IN A SHOW OF FORCE BUT THIS WAS NOT NECESSARY.

Q. THAT HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY OTHER BUSES OF EVACUEES BEING TURNED BACK AT TON SON NHUT BY SVN SECURITY FORCES.

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(VIET)

SAIGON (UPI)--A 27-SHIP SOUTH VIETNAMESE NAVAL SQUADRON SURRENDERED TO THE VIET CONG WEDNESDAY ON PROMISE OF AMNESTY BY THE COMMUNIST REGIME IN SAIGON, THE YUGOSLAV NEWS AGENCY TANJUG REPORTED TODAY. DELAYED UPI DISPATCHES FROM SAIGON DISCLOSED THAT SOME AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN HAD BEEN LEFT BEHIND IN THE HASTY U.S. EVACUATION.

TANJUG SAID THE NAVAL SQUADRON, SAILING OFF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE COAST WITH AN ADMIRAL AND HIGH-RANKING OFFICERS OF THE FORMER SAIGON REGIME, FLEW WHITE FLAGS AND JOINED LARGE GROUPS OF FORMER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO HAVE REPORTED TO THE NEW COMMUNIST RULERS.

GEN. TRAN VAN TRA, VIET CONG MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND HEAD OF THE NEW LEADERSHIP IN SAIGON, PROMISED THAT THE NEW REGIME "WILL FORGIVE COMPLETELY" THOSE VIETNAMESE WHO COMMITTED CRIMES DURING THE WAR IF THEY "REPENT OF WHAT THEY HAVE DONE."

UPI CORRESPONDENT ALAN DAWSON, WHO REMAINED BEHIND WHEN THE COMMUNISTS SEIZED SAIGON, REPORTED TODAY THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE CAPITAL RETURNED TO NORMAL 48 HOURS AFTER THE TAKEOVER AND THAT THERE WERE NONE OF THE BLOODY REPRISALS FEARED BY THOUSANDS OF VIETNAMESE WHO FLED THE CITY.

DAWSON SAID THAT WHEN MEMBERS OF THE U.S. EMBASSY HASTILY PACKED UP AND PULLED OUT OF VIETNAM, THEY LEFT BEHIND AMERICANS, FOREIGN DIPLOMATS AND UNCOUNTED HUNDREDS OF VIETNAMESE EMPLOYEES THEY HAD PROMISED TO TAKE WITH THEM.

SOME AMERICANS WERE IN SOUTH VIETNAMESE JAILS AT THE TIME AND THEY WERE RELEASED BY THE VIET CONG.

UPI 05-08 12:37 PED

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS ROUTING SHEET (5211)
NAVMC HQ 328 (REV. 9-73)**EVACUATION FILE**

1. DATE

24 Apr 1975

2. OPERATION CODE

X - ORIGINATOR OR OFFICE
AFFIXING ROUTING SHEET

A - APPROPRIATE ACTION

S - GUIDANCE

C - SIGNATURE

D - COMMENT

E - RECOMMENDATION

F - CONCURRENCE

G - INFORMATION

H - RETURN TO _____

I - INITIAL

J - DISPOSITION

K - DECISION

L - RETENTION

O - (OTHER) _____

ROUTING - Use numbers to show order of routing

Letter to LtGen McLAUGHLIN from
the Commanding General, 3d Marine
Division of 16 April 1975

4. RTG.	5. OPR. CODE	6. ADDRESSEES	7. DATE		8. INITIALS		9. NATURE OF ACTION REQUIRED	ORIGINATOR'S INITIALS	DUE DATE (If any)
			IN	OUT	CONCUR	NON-CONCUR			
	G	COMMANDANT CMC					ROUTINE		
	G	MILITARY SECY TO CMC					URGENT		
	G	ASSISTANT COMMANDANT ACMC							
	G	EXEC ASST TO ACMC							
	G	DIR SPEC PROJ SPO							
	G	CHIEF OF STAFF CS							
	G	SECY OF GEN STAFF							
	G	DC/S FOR PLANS & OPS P							
	G	DC/S FOR MANPOWER M							
	G	DC/S FOR I & L L							
	G	DC/S FOR R & P RP							
	G	DC/S FOR AVIATION AA							
	G	DC/S FOR RD & S RD							
		FISCAL DIR FD							
		DIR OF MC RESERVE RES							
		DIR OF INFO SYST & MGT ISM							
		INSPECTOR GENERAL IG							
	G	DIR JUDGE ADVOCATE DIV JA							
	G	DIR OF INFORMATION PA							
	G	DIR OF HIST & MUSEUMS HD							
	G	DIR OF TELECOMM TEL							
	G	DIR OF INTELLIGENCE INT							
		DIR OF HQ SUPPORT HOS							
		LEGISLATIVE ASST OLA							
		COUNSEL FOR CMC CL							
		MEDICAL OFF USMC MED							
		DENTAL OFF USMC DEN							
		CHAPLAIN USMC REL							

CMC
via: ACMC
I thought you
would be interested
in some of Mr. Mc
Laughlin's obser-
vations on recent
events in West Pac.
Resp.
WHL

DIR ✓
DEP ✓
XO ✓
INFO ✓

we need to
get HWA's
permission
to use it.
internal
release,
maybe
sozette it

See instructions on reverse side



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
HEADQUARTERS
3D MARINE DIVISION (-) (REINFORCED), FLEET MARINE FORCE
FLEET POST OFFICE, SAN FRANCISCO 96602

16 April 1975

Lieutenant General John N. MCLAUGHLIN
Chief of Staff
Headquarters Marine Corps
Washington, D. C. 20380

Dear John Nicholas,

We have sort of been in the world spotlight during the past several weeks. Although I know you've kept up with the sitreps, I would like to share with you some of the specifics of our effort over the 16-day period, from 27 March 1975 to 12 April 1975, when our U. S. Marines from BLT 2/4 set foot in LZ HOTEL in Phnom Penh, Cambodia at 2200, 11 April your time in D. C. (120900 Apr). This marks the first introduction of Marine field forces in South East Asia since our withdrawal in 1971. At the outset, let me state that as the Commanding General of this fine Division of Marines, I am both humble and extremely proud of the outstanding resourcefulness and aggressive spirit demonstrated by my officers and men when it came to game time on Saturday afternoon. They were just superb!

Activity began to peak on 27 March, with the Division configured in a posture which reflected the usual WestPac deployment. 2/4 was deployed on-station as the ARG "A"/31st MAU BLT, prepared to execute their Cambodia mission. 3/9, as the ARG "B" BLT, was at Camp Fuji and was undergoing extensive training and tactical testing. At the outset, we had 2,704 Marines deployed with their organic equipment. Otherwise, it was business as usual, with MAFLEX/MABLEX planning in full-swing. We had just completed two MAF CPX's, for which we had worked hard and which had encompassed the better part of two weeks.

The developing situation in South East Asia, particularly with respect to the possible evacuation of refugees, had thrust upon the Division a totally new and unique commitment. On 27 March, the Division was tasked to provide troops for the Amphibious Evacuation RVN Support Group. I chopped Lieutenant Colonel Chuck HESTER's 1/4 to CTF 79, who in turn passed OPCON to Amphibious Support Group (CTG 76.8). The battalion consisted of a command group and four rifle companies which were reconfigured for shipboard security-type missions. They embarked in two echelons from White Beach, Okinawa. One boarded the USS BLUE RIDGE on 27 March and the other the USS DUBUQUE on 30 March.

I talked to almost every Marine and Navyman from 1/4 at White Beach as they boarded their ships. The troops were magnificent and their equipment was in great shape. It made me proud to send these guys off to do a job for Don WHITMIRE and George STEELE. By 9 April, 1/4 had provided security detachments to nine amphibious or MSC ships.

On 3 April, George STEELE asked for the formation of ten more separate ship security guard detachments. My guys came up with a great little detachment of two officers and 70 enlisted, specifically tailored to the shipboard security requirement. The packages, including supplies, just happened to fit into two C-130's. This was in case these Marines had to be flown to Subic. 12th Marines, 3d Engineer Battalion, 7th Communication Battalion, Headquarters Battalion, 3d Tank Battalion, 4th Marines and 9th Marines all contributed these detachments. That's been one of great things about this whole evolution - everybody wanted a piece of the action. To date, these detachments have not been called for, however, they are being considered. About the same time, 2 April, USDAO, Saigon requested that CINCPAC provide two reinforced Marine rifle companies, to function as a security force for the DAO compound at Ton Son Nhut. We came up with a mini-task force, consisting of Lieutenant Colonel Harper BOHR (CO, ReconBn) and his Alfa Command Group; one company from Reconnaissance Battalion; and, Company H, 2/9. CINCPAC, at the direction of JCS, disapproved DAO's request. However, they did approve sending a survey team, consisting of Lieutenant Colonel BOHR and two others, to Saigon on 7 April.

Requirements upon the Division continued. On 4 April, Carl HOFFMAN directed me to provide him 1/9, our air contingency BLT, to fly away in a light air-contingency configuration. This unit included a 4.2" Mortar Battery. It did not include a 105mm Battery or LSU. They were to meet amphibious shipping at Subic for possible Vietnam evacuation operations. 1/9 commenced their fly away from Kadena, AFB to Cubi Point on 5 April. Their movement was completed on 6 April. This movement, of some 1,081 Marines and their organic equipment, was done in a most successful and professional manner. Then, based on orders from higher headquarters, George STEELE directed, on 6 April, the reconstitution of 1/9 as a BLT. This reconfiguration was to include a 105mm Howitzer Battery, LVT Platoon and an LSU. Special air-movement was arranged from Kadena to Cubi Point via USAF C-5A's, C-141's, and two commercial 727's. I believe its a first in Marine Corps history that C-5A's have carried Marine LVTP-7's. Each plane carried only two of these vehicles because of present C-5A

load constraints. Movement commenced on 6 April and was completed on 8 April. We moved 946 short tons of people and equipment, to include 12 LVT's and six 105mm howitzers and their M-35 prime movers.

I was on the scene talking with troopers, unit commanders and those boyish pilots of the huge C-5A's and the smaller C-141's. I also talked with most everyone in 1/9 over the four day embarkation period. Again, I was tremendously proud to be a United States Marine, seeing America's finest young men eager to serve their country and Corps. Their equipment, incidentally, was in top notch shape. Particularly touching were two young Marines I talked to, each of which had an arm in a cast. I cautioned them that they might not get to go because everybody had to be ready to fight, if necessary. I no more than had the words out of my mouth when they, in unison, retorted sharply, "General, we're goin'!" With spirit like that, John, we can't lose!

Simultaneously, with the 1/9 move, I provided Colonel Al GRAY and a small staff from his 4th Marines to augment the 9th MAB nucleus staff (Brigadier General CAREY). On arrival at Subic, however, the 33d MAU was activated. This allowed Al to be designated as the MAU commander. On 7 April, BLT 1/9 chopped OPCON to the 33d MAU.

Not wanting Lieutenant Colonel Bob LOEHE's BLT 3/9 to remain a hostage at Camp Fuji, since their ARG BRAVO shipping was now carrying 1/9, their move back to Okinawa was requested. BLT 3/9 commenced a deliberate, low-key, echeloning back to Okinawa, using USMC C-130's on 7 April. This move was completed on 10 April, with the exception of their tanks, artillery prime movers, motor transport platoon and administrative tail. Hopefully, ANCHORAGE (LSD-36) will pick up these remaining elements when she arrives out here later this month.

Now, at the end of the 16-day period, which ended on 12 April, the 3d Marine Division successfully executed its seven-fold mission of providing: (1) BLT 2/4, which was deployed with ARG "A"/31st MAU and was responsive to the basic Eagle Pull contingency; (2) 1/4, which was assigned to the Amphibious Evacuation RVN Support Group and responsible for providing ships' security detachments to seven amphibious/MSR ships; (3) ten separate ship's security detachments (72-man platoons) in a standby posture on Okinawa; (4) BLT 1/9, which was deployed with ARG "B"/33d MAU to Subic for response to NEMVAC RVN contingency operations; (5) Task Force BOHR (ReconBn (-)), in a standby status, responsive to the DAO security force

mission at Ton Son Nhut; (6) two rifle companies, Companies I and K of 3/4, in a standby fly away status, as backup to the Eagle Pull contingency requirement; and, (7) BLT 3/9, located on Okinawa and still chopped to III MAF, reconstituted as the ground element of the newly formed 35th MAU, which will embark on PHIBRON 5 shipping later this month under the command of Colonel Hans EDEBOHLS.

Especially noteworthy, I believe, was the efficient manner in which the Division responded to the shifts of troops and equipment within this short period. The proper and efficient provision of combat and combat service support, involving the movement of more than 6,300 troops, 281 major items of equipment and 1,197 short tons of supplies, was particularly outstanding. Virtually every regiment, battalion, company, battery and platoon of this Division had a piece of the action, either directly or through the provision of support in some way.

My staff and my commanders' staffs demonstrated an exceptional degree of professionalism, by providing operational direction and coordination for the mission commitments that grew quickly during this period. Tasked with many and rapidly changing requirements, these headquarters provided aggressive and forward looking planning, coordination and leadership in all areas.

There have been countless examples of willingness and desire to go where the action is by individual Marines; demands by individuals to extend their tours and even their EAS's; and, waivers of physical duty limitations, just to get the chance to go with their squad or platoon. All of these attest to the continued professionalism and esprit de corps of our Marines when confronted with a real challenge.

A rare example of this superb attitude was exemplified by the small platoon of 49 Marines, commanded by Second Lieutenant R. E. LEE, aboard the PIONEER CONTENDER. This platoon had the responsibility for providing ship's security for some 16,000 evacuees. Yet, with complete competence and self-assurance, Second Lieutenant LEE reported to his battalion commander the number of evacuees he had on board and that the situation was well under control. These efforts, of course, were truly consummated with the successful evacuation of all Americans from Phnom Penh. Our Marines performed superbly in their tasks and, once again, demonstrated their readiness and capability to do the job in professional fashion.

This impressive record can only be attributed to effective team work, aggressive spirit, consummate professionalism and unflagging devotion to duty of every Marine in the Division. I am really proud of each and every one of them.

A lengthy tome I know. Just wanted to bring you up to date. I am leaving for the Philippines this morning to welcome the troops home on behalf of Carl and myself. . . A great tour!!

Best to Marilee.

As ever,



KENNETH J. HOUGHTON

P.S. Ten (10) of those 72 in an detachment departed today If you deem it advisable when this note to General Anderson and General Anderson

Reply to Wilson
Cmc ✓ out
P+O edit.
Houghton

MAY 6 1 21 PM '75

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COMMANDANT US MARINE CORPS

WASHINGTONDC/USA

MAJOR GENERAL BUITHELAN VNCMC AND HIS STAFF ON BOARD VN

COMMERCIAL SHIP DAIDUONG ARE IN SINGAPORE WATER SINCE 3RD MAY STOP

WE NEED TRANSPORTATION TO US TO JOIN FAMILIES STOP OUR FAMILIES

TAKEN CARE BY LTCOL A. LUKEMAN USMC CHIEF LSB/VNMC DAO SAIGON

HAVE BEEN PICKED UP BY TWO US C.130 AT VUNGTAU ON 27TH APRIL TO

GUAM

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTORATE FOR DEFENSE INFORMATION
PRESS DIVISION

DATE April 22, 1975 TIME 1115 OSD REPRESENTATIVE W. J. file

QUERY FROM Morning Briefing (MG Sidle)

- QUERY: 1. Did any of the amphibious ships of PHIBRON V embark Marines during the stopover at Okinawa? If so, when? How many? Which ships?
2. What is the total number of Marines embarked aboard 7th Fleet ships in the South China Sea area?
3. Did the Marines from Hawaii go to Okinawa by commercial aircraft? If so, why? If not, how? Is there any shortage of military airlift for such movements?
4. Do you have sufficient airlift available in WESTPAC to evacuate the remaining Americans from South Vietnam?
5. How many ships deployed with PHIBRON V?
6. What is total number of amphibious ships deployed in South China Sea area?
7. How many MSC ships available to assist in possible evacuation of Vietnamese?
8. How many commercial ships including foreign flags?
ANSWER: 9. How many destroyers deployed in South China Sea area?
10. When did PHIBRON V arrive in vicinity of South China Sea?
11. When did you start using C-130s for flights of evacuees out of Saigon?
12. How many flights per day are being flown with evacuees out of Saigon?
13. What USN, MSC, other ships are in Vung Tau? Saigon?
14. Are there any amphibious ships left at Okinawa? How many?
15. Are there any amphibious ships at Subic? How many?
16. How many US personnel are afloat aboard 7th Fleet ships in the vicinity of the South China Sea?
17. Were additional (any) helicopters put aboard the MIDWAY?

- ANSWER: 1. Yes, but we will not comment on the numbers of Marines involved.
2. Over 4000.
3. They were transported in part by MAC contract flights because this was the most expeditious and cost effective method of doing so. There is no shortage of military airlift.
4. Yes.
5. Seven
6. About a dozen.
7. Ten plus several tugs and numerous barges plus about a dozen more available.
8. Included in above.
9. More than a dozen. 15.
10. Some over the weekend. Some Monday and Tuesday.
11. Monday.

SOURCE OF ANSWER _____

PHONE 2218000

COORDINATION _____

COMPLETED BY _____

TIME INQUIRER NOTIFIED _____

REMARKS:

THIS REPORT IS TO BE TURNED IN TO THE PRESS CHIEF IMMEDIATELY UPON COMPLETION

12. Refer you to State since we only providing part of the airlift.
13. Vang Tau - 5 MSC. Saigon - 5 MSC.
14. One.
15. One.
16. No comment.
17. Yes. No comment on number.

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FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

PROGRAM Lowell Thomas

STATION

WTOP Radio
CBS Network

DATE April 29, 1975 7:00 PM

CITY

Washington, D.C.

THE FINAL EVACUATION OF AMERICANS

MITCHELL KRAUSS (Substituting): The final evacuation of American citizens from South Vietnam is now complete.

That news comes from President Ford, who says, "this closes a chapter during the American experience. We must now close ranks, avoid recriminations, look ahead to goals and work together on the great tasks we face."

Following the President, whose words were read by News Secretary Ronald Nessen, Secretary of State Kissinger described the objective of the last U.S. operation in Saigon -- first, to save the lives of Americans still in Vietnam; second, to save as many South Vietnamese as possible among those who worked with Americans over the past fifteen years; and, finally, to bring as humane an end as possible to the present situation, namely, the Communist takeover of the South.

As for the numbers during the final twelve-hour airlift, U.S. helicopters removed almost 1,000 Americans and 6,000 Vietnamese to waiting U.S. carriers in the South China Sea.

In all, over the past few weeks, 6,500 Americans and 55,000 Vietnamese were taken out of the country by American planes and helicopters, most headed eventually for the Continental United States. Many thousands more escaped by other means.

Casualties in the last day number four -- two U.S. Marines killed by Communist shells during the early morning shelling of Tan Son Nhut Airport, and two Marine pilots who died when their rescue helicopter crashed into the sea. They are, as far as we know now, the last Americans to die in the long Vietnam conflict.

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FOR

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

PROGRAM The World Tonight

STATION WTOP Radio
CBS Network

DATE April 29, 1975

6:00 PM

CITY Washington, D.C.

THE PENTAGON'S ASSESSMENT OF THE EVACUATION

DOUGLAS EDWARDS: Some Vietnamese who couldn't get out on the American helicopters go out their own way today by appropriating airplanes and helicopters.

Lesley Stahl has a report now on the Pentagon's view on the evacuation.

LESLEY STAHL: The Pentagon is estimating that 6,500 people were rescued from Saigon during a fourteen-hour helicopter rescue mission. That includes as many as 900 Americans, the rest Vietnamese and third country nationals.

The only Americans there now, a Pentagon source said, are those who have elected to stay.

Seventy to 80 helicopters, carrying about 50 passengers each, shuttled from the American Embassy in downtown Saigon to five aircraft carriers stationed off the coast.

There was some sporadic ground fire late this afternoon, but Pentagon sources are saying that the evacuation went much more smoothly than was anticipated. One source said, "As far as wars go, this was not bad at all. Not at all."

Lesley Stahl, CBS News, at the Pentagon.

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FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

PROGRAM CBS News

STATION

WTOP Radio
CBS Network

DATE April 29, 1975 11:00 PM

CITY Washington, D.C.

VIETNAM EVACUATION

DOUGLAS EDWARDS: The United States left South Vietnam today in a steady stream of helicopters guarded by fighter planes, left it with some South Vietnamese begging to be taken along with others all but spitting at the Americans, left it with a memory of 50,000 Americans dead, 150 billion American dollars in aid and war materials, and the destruction of untold dreams and illusions and hopes. The evacuation is finished now.

Robert Pierpoint reports.

ROBERT PIERPOINT: Secretary of State Kissinger talked about the evacuation after it had been announced as complete by the President's Press Secretary Ron Nessen.

The Secretary of State pointed out deliberately some of the successful aspects of today's evacuation operation, making as good a case as he could for a painful situation for him personally as well as for the United States.

Dr. Kissinger explained that when President Ford made his speech to Congress two weeks ago asking for about a billion dollars more in aid for South Vietnam he had several priorities in mind, namely to save as many American lives as possible, to get out as many South Vietnamese who had worked closely with Americans as possible, and to produce what Kissinger called a humane political solution if possible.

Kissinger seemed to feel that the first two objects have been obtained. But he was less certain about the future of either South Vietnam or the rest of Southeast Asia.

SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER: I think it is too early to make a final assessment. There is no question that the outcome in Indochina will have consequences not only in Asia but in many other parts of the world. But I'm confident that we can deal with them.

PIERPOINT: Kissinger did say that the communists have

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made it increasingly clear in recent days that they intend what he called a substantial political takeover of all South Vietnam.

Robert Pierpoint, CBS News, at the White House.

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FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

PROGRAM News

STATION

WMAL Radio
AIR Network

DATE April 29, 1975 7:00 PM

CITY

Washington, D.C.

REPORT ON EVACUATION

NEWSCASTER: Among the people evacuated from Saigon today was former president and Air Force General Nguyen Cao Ky. Ky had said last week Vietnamese who were fleeing the country were cowards.

There was some violence in the evacuation from South Vietnamese, angered by the U.S. pullout. Shots were fired at evacuation buses and helicopters. And there was thievery.

A report from Sandy Gaul of International Television News in Saigon.

SANDY GAUL: As the Jolly Green Giants shuttled in and out of Saigon carrying the last of the Americans out of Vietnam, the crowd started to loot what was left in the PXs, the American refuse. They ran in and out like mad things carrying beer, mattresses, refrigerators, cooking gear and even a containment of white plastic dyes which one lady had dropped on the ground. Police stood by and helped themselves, too; swinging canned American beer and firing the odd shot in the air to prevent the [word unintelligible] from getting out of hand.

NEWSCASTER: That's Sandy Gaul of International Television News.

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FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

PROGRAM News

STATION WDC RadioDATE April 29, 1975 7:30 PM

CITY Washington, D.C.

FINAL EVACUATION

NEWSCASTER: In all, about 6500 Americans and Vietnamese were helicoptered out in the final evacuation of Vietnam.

ABC's Bernard Wiseman has further details from Clarke Air Force Base in the Philippines.

BERNARD WISEMAN: Bulletins reaching Clarke Air Base from reporters on the command ship of the task force say that former South Vietnamese Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky and the wife of U.S. Ambassador Graham Martin were among those ferrying by helicopter to the waiting ship. According to other reports, Ambassador Martin has also evacuated to the Navy task force.

This is Bernard Wiseman, ABC News, at Clark Air Base in the Philippines.

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FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

PROGRAM News

STATION WTOP Radio

DATE April 29, 1975

7:15 PM

CITY

Washington, D.C.

TRAGIC NOTE

BOB KAPPS: One of the helicopters used in the evacuations of the last Americans from Saigon crashed at sea and two crew members were killed.

Earlier, two Americans were killed in a shelling of the Tan Son Nhut Airport -- four Americans killed in all in the evacuation operations, and with a report on one of those men, here is Darrell Gould, in Boston.

DARRELL GOULD: There is a tragic note of irony in the death of one of the last Americans to be killed in action in Vietnam.

Twenty-two year-old Corporal Charles McMann, Jr., one of two Marines who died in the shelling of Tan Son Nhut airbase just before the final American evacuation began, was a native of Woburn, Massachusetts.

In Woburn, he was an active member of the local Boys Club, and in 1971 was chosen for that organization's "Boy of the Year" award.

Charles Gardner, director of the Woburn Boys Club, talked about the tinge of sadness now connected with that award.

CHARLES GARDNER: The "Boy of the Year" award is in memory of Joseph Drew, who was a member of the Boys Club and was one of the first ones from Woburn killed in the Vietnam conflict, and he was a Marine.

And, of course, now we have Charlie. It looks like he's going to be one of the last ones killed in the Vietnam war. So it's kind of ironic.

GOULD: The young Marine, who had been in Vietnam only a few days, had extended his stay in the Corps to go to Embassy School and win assignment to the Consular Service.

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His parents last words from him were in a post card from Hawaii. They did not even know for certain that he was in Vietnam until they learned of his death.

Darrell Gould, Group-W News, Boston.

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FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

PROGRAM CBS Special Report

STATION WTOP Radio
CBS Network

DATE April 29, 1975

5:50 PM

CITY Washington, D.C.

FULL TEXT

NEIL STRAWSER: For those of you who may have tuned in late, here is a brief summary of the remarks of Secretary Kissinger and of White House News Secretary Ron Nessen.

Nessen appeared first at this briefing to read a statement from President Ford reporting the completion of the evacuation, the statement closing with these words by President Ford:

"This action closes a chapter in the American experience. I ask all Americans to close ranks to avoid recrimination about the past, to look ahead to the many goals we share and to work together on the great tasks that remain to be accomplished."

Secretary Kissinger said he wanted to underline the point made by the President. "We do not believe," he said, "this is a time for recrimination. It is a time to heal wounds, to look to our international obligations."

Mr. Kissinger said that he doesn't believe that we should give aid to rebuild North Vietnam. He said that the United States will consider requests for humanitarian aid to South Vietnam. He said the primary obligation there should rest with those who furnished the weapons, obviously, to the Communists, to the North Vietnamese, and to the Viet Cong.

And the Secretary of State defended the pace of the evacuation, saying that it was carried out without undue delay. He said we got out all our personnel without panic and without substantial casualties that would have occurred if civil order had totally broken down. And we also saved, he said, 56,000 people whose lives were in severe jeopardy -- those of the South Vietnamese.

For an analysis, let's turn to CBS News White House correspondent, Robert Pierpoint.

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ROBERT PIERPOINT: The Secretary of State was obviously trying to put somewhat of a good face on what is, in many respects, a disastrous setback for him personally as well as for the United States.

He did point out that a couple of weeks ago when President Ford talked to Congress, the President had three priorities. They were to save as many American lives as possible, to get out as many South Vietnamese as possible -- that is those who worked closely with the United States -- and to produce what Kissinger called "as humane a political solution as possible."

Today, with the successful evacuation of approximately 1,000 Americans and 5,500 South Vietnamese, the Secretary pointed out that the first two priorities seemed to have been achieved. But he was less certain by far about the political solution and, in fact, he was very uncertain about the future of all of Southeast Asia. He simply said that he hoped a military battle could be avoided in what is the inevitable Communist takeover of South Vietnam.

And he said that there will be consequences for the rest of Southeast Asia and the world, and that we're just going to have to assess the situation.

And he admonished the United States not to go, in effect, isolationists, not to withdraw from the world scene because of this setback.

STRANSER: Very briefly, Bob, the Administration does seem to be a bit sensitive about those charges that there was too much delay in the evacuation.

PIERPOINT: Well there, of course, they're concerned because Congress has been making those charges, but I think they can answer the charges fairly well if, in fact, all the Americans got out safely, which it does seem has happened, and that's good news.

STRANSER: We lost two Marine pilots, apparently, by accident during the evacuation. Two Marines were killed a bit earlier in the shelling, but we have no other report of casualties.

This has been a CBS News Special Report with my colleague, Robert Pierpoint.

I'm Neil Strawser, CBS News.

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FOR

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

PROGRAM

Walter Cronkite

STATION

WTOP Radio
CBS Network

DATE

April 29, 1975

7:19 PM

CITY

Washington, D.C.

FULL TEXT

DAN RANTER (Substituting): This is Dan Rather reporting with news and commentary on the CBS Radio Network

"We should go with option four." Those were the words spoken last night by Ambassador Graham Martin in Saigon to Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in Washington, and those words were quickly translated into a presidential order that began the final evacuation of Americans from Vietnam.

Option four meant helicopters. It was the last ditch option. It meant that Americans would be extracted from Saigon in extremity after thirty years of involvement in Southeast Asia. The last bitter pill to swallow.

Some details, after this message.

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There were four options in the planning to get Americans out of Saigon. That it was necessary to employ the last one made it clear that Ambassador Martin, whose decision it really was, had waited until the last minute. To some, it seemed that he almost waited until it was too late.

The people of Saigon long had known that the war was lost and that their allies were pulling out. Some Vietnamese turned bitterly and even violently on the Americans.

Yesterday, a South Vietnamese soldier reportedly tried to kill an American with a .45 automatic. His pistol, fortunately, misfired.

When today's evacuation order came, Americans in Saigon went to supposedly secret assembly points to board buses for the Saigon airport where helicopters were to take them to carriers waiting in the South China Sea. But this secret, as had been the case through most of the war with so many secrets, was ill-kept.

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Mobs of Vietnamese were waiting to pile into the buses, forcing some of the Americans to stay behind.

Some of the buses arriving at Tan Son Nhut Airport were fired upon by South Vietnamese soldiers who shouted, "We want to go, too."

Some of the Americans left behind by the buses later had to be snatched off of roof tops by helicopters scanning the city.

Other Americans had to make their own way to Tan Son Nhut only to be barred from entering the gate by angry South Vietnamese guards. They made their way back to the American Embassy compound in the center of the city where an incredible scene awaited them.

Hundreds of Vietnamese were trying to get into the Embassy and out of the country by climbing the ten-foot wall around the compound. Inside, U.S. Marines, in full battle dress, were using rifle butts to smash the fingers of those Vietnamese who clung to the top of the wall. Some Vietnamese even tried to jump the wall only to land in barbed wire beneath them.

George Esper, a veteran Associated Press reporter who chose to stay behind, described this terrible scene that seems to symbolize the manner in which our Vietnam involvement ended. Esper's final frame, "A man and woman who tried to make that impossible jump lay bleeding on the barbed wire as Marine helicopters lifted off the Embassy roof carrying Americans to safety."

Those Americans who had been denied entrance to Tan Son Nhut and had made their way back to the Embassy compound, were forced to scale the wall themselves, kicking and beating away Vietnamese who tried in desperation to cling to them.

Some held up their children, asking the Americans to take them over the fence.

The evacuation has lifted some 5,000 people out of Saigon now, about 900 of them Americans, almost 4,000 Vietnamese. Other Vietnamese managed to get out aboard South Vietnamese Air Force planes. A large number of them reportedly landed today at a U.S. Air Force Base in Thailand.

Meanwhile, those areas of Saigon, until today, inhabited by Americans were scenes of looting by South Vietnamese who stayed behind.

Not a pretty end to our Vietnam years, but a very clear end.

3

It is early morning in Saigon now. Truly, for better or for worst, a new dawn in Indochina. The American airlift, suspended over night there, resumed and now has finished. The last Americans who wanted to leave the city presumably have been taken out, though a number of American newsmen have elected to stay behind to report the immediate aftermath of the American era in Indochina.

But that era, surely and finally, now has ended.

This is Dan Rather reporting for CBS News.

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FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

PROGRAM The World Tonight

STATION WTOP Radio
CBS Network

DATE April 29, 1975 6:00 PM

CITY Washington, D.C.

EVACUATION IS OVER

DOUGLAS EDWARDS: The American evacuation of South Vietnam is over.

What now? What has the Vietnam experience done to us as people? What has it done to us as a nation?

George Herman has a commentary.

GEORGE HERMAN: It's about-over in South Vietnam, and the question we must turn our minds to now is what all this has done to us, to the mighty United States of America.

The frustrations of Korea drove us into the arms of Senator Joseph McCarthy. And here we have more than frustration, we have defeat.

Our Armies, despite their courage and valiant efforts, were not able to defeat the enemy within the limits we set ourselves in this war. Eventually, a popular movement arose in this country which forced our leaders to alter their policy, to cut our losses, and to get us out of Vietnam.

Henry Kissinger had advocated getting out at such a way that there would be a decent interval -- a few years, perhaps -- after we left and before the fall of Saigon.

Even that failed in the end.

And we have fought the wrong war against the wrong people in the wrong fashion.

The futility and pain and the horror of all those deaths is plainer than ever now that it's all over. But still there is no detectable wave of emotion or ideology sweeping the country, no recrimination about the past, as President Ford has said.

There is no new McCarthy, either Joseph leading his

ideological troops against the Communist menace, nor Eugene leading his youth crusade against error in the White House.

If the country feels anything at all, it seems to be a curious amalgam of relief, sympathy, a little shame, and a saving admixture of new humility.

There's a realization that the powerful American war machine is no longer the almighty engine of international politics. Like the British and French before us, we have found the limits of our strengths and our determination.

We'll need time to lick out wounds awhile and to digest the lessons of Vietnam.

President Ford says it's the end of a chapter. Clearly, it's also the end of a state of mind for America. We've changed our way of thinking in the course of this unhappy Vietnam adventure, and we shall not be the same again for a long, long time.

George Herman, CBS News, Washington.

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FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

PROGRAM CBS News

STATION WTOP Radio
CBS Network

DATE April 29, 1975 9:00 PM

CITY Washington, D.C.

EVACUATION REPORTS

JIM KILPATRICK: Once again, Washington says all Americans have been evacuated from Saigon.

Late this afternoon President Ford announced the evacuation had been completed. Then word came there were still a group of 100 Marines guarding the U.S. Embassy in Saigon and their departure had been delayed by small arms fire. Now Bill Beecher, a Pentagon spokesman, says as of an hour and 12 minutes ago the last Marines have been airlifted out.

BILL BEECHER: As of the time Ambassador Martin was airlifted, that was roughly 5:30 in the evening western time -- at that point in time our information was that there were approximately 100 Marine guards around the embassy protecting the evacuation flights.

As of 7:52 AM Washington time the last group of Marine security personnel were lifted off the roof of the embassy in Saigon, according to word we received here and were headed safely to sea.

KILPATRICK: A Pentagon spokesman.

New information directly from Saigon, that story in a moment.

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KILPATRICK: Within the past 30 minutes CBS News has re-established contact with our news bureau in Saigon. The first contact in 11 hours. Newsmen Eric Celavoria (?) reports by telex the night was punctuated by the sounds of rifles, rockets and mortar fire. It is now morning in Saigon. A curfew is still in effect. Celavoria reports bands of people are in the streets hauling furniture and other apparently abandoned items.

Celavoria says there is a large crowd of people on the rooftops [word unintelligible] French Cultural building near

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downtown Saigon waiting to be picked up by helicopters and taken to American carriers. Celavoria says these are mostly Vietnamese and huge American helicopters, land intermittently on the rooftop and pick up the people. He says there is apparently still fighting near the Saigon airport and other suburbs of Saigon.

He says there are conflicting reports concerning any possible ceasefire. Celavoria reports many people trying to board ships in the hope of leaving the country, but they are being stopped, apparently under Saigon government orders.

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KILPATRICK: The first 350 of an expected 1,000 Vietnamese refugees have arrived at Camp Pendleton, California today. At President Ford's request, the House has suspended final Congressional action on a \$327 million Vietnam aid bill. The action was taken until the administration could suggest revisions in view of the American evacuation.

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FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

PROGRAM News

STATION WWDC Radio
AE Network

DATE April 29, 1975 6:30 PM

CITY Washington, D.C.

REPORT ON EVACUATION

NEWSCASTER: More than 80 huge olive-drab helicopters were used in today's final American evacuation in Saigon.

International Television News correspondent Sandy Gaul describes what was happening on the ground in downtown Saigon as the choppers whirled overhead.

SANDY GAUL: As the Jolly Green Giants shuffled in and out of Saigon carrying the last of the Americans out of Vietnam, the crowd started to loot what was left of the PXs, the American refuge. They ran in and out like mad things carrying beer, mattresses, refrigerators, cooking gear and even a container of white plastic dyes which one lady had dropped on the ground.

Police stood by and helped themselves, too; swinging canned American beer and firing the odd shot in the air to prevent the [word unintelligible] from getting out of hand.

NEWSCASTER: Reporter Gaul says two helicopter loads of U.S. Marines guarded the helicopter landing pad on the roof of the U.S. Embassy as thousands of Vietnamese pleaded in vain outside the Embassy's locked gates to be taken along also.

The final U.S. evacuation of Saigon took twelve hours after delays the White House says were caused by bad weather, pilot fatigue, and landing problems at the embassy. White House News Secretary Ron Nessen said many more Vietnamese were taken out than had been planned.

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FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

PROGRAM News

STATION

WMAL Radio
AIR Network

DATE April 29, 1975 6:00 PM

CITY

Washington, D.C.

REPORT ON EVACUATION

WES MOORE: The thirty year involvement of Americans in Southeast Asia and the South Vietnamese Civil War is ended. About an hour ago official word came that all remaining Americans in Saigon, about 950 of them, plus several thousand South Vietnamese who were closely identified with the pro-American regimes had been evacuated by helicopter. The operation, planned for months, did

The operation, planned for months, did not go smoothly but it did go. Two helicopters crashed, four U.S. Marines died.

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FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

PROGRAM News

STATION WMAL Radio
AIR Network

DATE April 29, 1975 5:00 PM

CITY Washington, D.C.

REPORT ON EVACUATION

NEWSCASTER: Bitter South Vietnamese troops occasionally fired on Americans and other evacuees trying to get out of Saigon today. U.S. fighter planes reportedly had to attack some South Vietnamese aircraft which were scrapping barges carrying refugees toward the South China Sea.

With the departure of the Americans, there's also a rash of thievery in Saigon.

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FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

PROGRAM CBS News

STATION

WTOP Radio
CBS Network

DATE April 29, 1975 11:00 PM

CITY

Washington, D.C.

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

JIM KILPATRICK: As the last Americans left Vietnam Tuesday, Defense Secretary Schlesinger sent a message of appreciation to the members of the United States Armed Forces saying our involvement was not purposeless. However, Schlesinger said, it will be stated that the war itself was futile, in some sense, such may be said of any national effort that ultimately fails.

The administration's asked Congress for emergency legislation to provide housing and other aid to destitute Americans and their dependents being evacuated from Vietnam. The appeal was made in letters from Health, Education and Welfare Secretary Caspar Weinberger to House Speaker Carl Albert and Vice President Rockefeller, as President of the Senate.

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FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

PROGRAM CBS News

STATION

WTOP Radio
CBS Network

DATE April 29, 1975 10:00 PM

CITY

Washington, D.C.

REPORT ON EVACUATION

STUART NOVINS: Inside Saigon tonight, uncertainty, some shooting, looting and now a report of incoming rockets.

I'm Stuart Novins reporting on the CBS Radio Network.

From our CBS News Bureau in Saigon this late information. At least two rockets have hit inside the city, precisely where they landed and what damage they may have done is not yet known.

The last Americans have withdrawn from the city except for a few newsmen who elected to stay and a smaller number who intended to leave but who were crowded out by Vietnamese.

In the abandoned U.S. Embassy compound South Vietnamese looters picked over the personal property that was left behind by the evacuating Americans. Cars abandoned, have been rolled away by South Vietnamese. The supply of gasoline in the city is quickly disappearing.

The United States flag that had flown over the embassy is no longer there.

Our newsmen still in Saigon say the rockets that came in tonight may be an effort to spread panic in the city rather than the beginning of an attack.

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FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

PROGRAM	CBS News	STATION	WTOP Radio CBS Network
DATE	April 29, 1975 12:00 Noon	CITY	Washington, D.C.

REPORTS ON EVACUATION

RICHARD C. HOTTELET: The evacuation of South Vietnam is coming to an end. The last Americans except for a handful of reporters and missionaries who have chosen to remain behind, should be out within an hour.

I'm Richard C. Hottelet reporting on the CBS Radio Network.

President Ford set the wheels of the long expected emergency evacuation in motion late last night when the situation in Saigon became critical. And nine hours ago, at 3:00 AM Eastern Daylight Time, the first of 80 odd helicopters began lifting out the last remaining Americans from the Defense Attache Compound at Tansonnhut Airport and from the American embassy.

The Defense Department said three hours ago that more than 4500 Americans and Vietnamese had been evacuated so far.

U.S. Ambassador Graham Martin, whose word launched the operation, estimated that it would be completed at this hour. A White House announcement is expected shortly and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger is expected to brief reporters. He will be broadcast live over many of these CBS Radio Network stations.

There is no longer direct contact with Saigon. The fate of the city and the future of South Vietnam is now clearly in the hands of the communists.

* * *

HOTTELET: It has been a day of grief and drama in Saigon as Vietnamese civilians pleaded and fought and pushed to get on board the last helicopters lifting Americans and Vietnamese from the only remaining safe pad inside the Capital, the roof of the American Embassy, a building which had been designed, incidentally, to serve precisely that purpose.

As a military exercise, the evacuation lift was smooth

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and effective. Nor did it encounter any real Vietnamese opposition. At a Pentagon briefing this morning, Joe Laitin did note two incidents.

JOE LAITIN: One of the helicopters, outward bound was apparently hit by groundfire, but the pilot reported he was okay and continued on his way.

An A-7 pilot from the carrier Enterprise had some problem and he ejected near his ship. He was picked up at 8:45 from the ocean. He's okay.

HOTTELET: Laitin reported that something like ten Vietnamese Air Force helicopters also flew out to the vicinity of the U.S.S. Blue Ridge, the amphibious command ship off the coast, and ditched with their passengers who were then rescued.

There's another report of the U.S. Consul in Con Tho in the Mekong Delta heading down the Basok River to the sea with some 200 Americans, other foreigners and Vietnamese. He reported being attacked by unfriendly helicopters, and fighters from a U.S. carrier were sent in to provide cover.

Vietnamese tugs and barges are reported to be moving down the Saigon River with thousands of people who hope to get aboard American ships.

Scores of Vietnamese Air Force planes with thousands of occupants were flown to safety on their own, crossing Cambodia and the Gulf of Siam to land at Utaphao, the big remaining U.S. Air Force base in Southern Thailand. Thai authorities, more cautious than ever in the face of communist victory say the refugees may remain for one month before seeking homes elsewhere.

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FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

PROGRAM CBS News

STATION

WTOP Radio
CBS Network

DATE April 29, 1975 2:00 PM

CITY

Washington, D.C.

REPORTS ON EVACUATION

REID COLLINS: Americans were still leaving the roof of the U.S. Embassy in Saigon, but word from the Viet Cong is fight on.

I'm Reid Collins reporting on the CBS Radio Network.

As of two hours ago, the White House says there were six hundred Americans and South Vietnamese still waiting to be lifted out of Saigon and onto the Flotilla offshore. Earlier estimates had said evacuation would have been ended by that time. The Pentagon says the last of the U.S. Marines at Tan Son Nhut airfield are now out. Is that enough to end it? Jack Curtis has the latest from Viet Cong headquarters in Paris.

[The report was not broadcast.]

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COLLINS: The White House expects to have a statement from the President, presumably when the evacuation is complete. Secretary of State Kissinger also is to hold a briefing to follow the White House statement.

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COLLINS: The American departure from Saigon continued drawing fire from Democrats and some Republicans on Capitol Hill today. They singled out the U.S. Ambassador Graham Martin for blame in not ordering an earlier exit. Illinois Republican Charles Percy joined the criticism.

SENATOR CHARLES PERCY: I share the feelings of other members of the Foreign Relations Committee that he's been rigid; that he has been, in a sense, too close to Thieu; that he was serving the interests of the South Vietnamese government too much and leaning in that direction and hanging on beyond the point of diminishing return.

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COLLINS: Senate Republican Leader Hugh Scott said, "I am sorry to see anybody inject politics into a tragic situation of this kind." Arizona's Republican Senator Barry Goldwater was speaking to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce meeting in Washington.

SENATOR BARRY GOLDWATER: We all have a sense of relief that the thing's over. But I think we also have cause for a sense of shame because we could have won that war but we were prevented from doing so.

COLLINS: A pending bill for authorizing humanitarian aid for South Vietnam and to okay the use of American troops if need be to evacuate Americans from Vietnam was removed from the House calendar today for the time being at least. The word came to delete the measure from the calendar as Speaker Albert was attending the White House briefing on the situation in Saigon.

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FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

PROGRAM CBS News

STATION WTOP Radio
CBS Network

DATE April 29, 1975 1:00 PM

CITY Washington, D.C.

REPORTS ON EVACUATION

DOUGLAS EDWARDS: American involvement in Vietnam, considered by many as a 20 year string of failures, appears to be ending with a successful evacuation.

I'm Douglas Edwards reporting on the CBS Radio Network.

More than 80 U.S. military helicopters began carrying the last Americans out of Saigon from the airport and from the U.S. embassy about ten hours ago. A few have chosen to remain; missionaries and some newsmen. Word is now awaited from the White House if the evacuation has been completed.

A statement from the President will be read by news secretary Ron Nessen and then Secretary of State Kissinger will hold a briefing. Both of those events will be broadcast live over many of these CBS Radio Network stations.

President Ford met with his Cabinet this morning and then briefed congressional leaders. The President reported that on his orders nearly every American had been evacuated from Vietnam without incident.

The Pentagon says all U.S. Marines have been evacuated from Tan Son Nhut Airport and are safely aboard American vessels at sea. Overall, 1100 Americans and others were evacuated.

Some Democrats on Capitol Hill are not happy with the evacuation, claiming that the final order to clear out came too late. Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield says the whole evacuation took too long and Mansfield claims the responsibility lies with the Ambassador to Saigon, Graham Martin.

Democratic Senator Dick Clark of Iowa agrees.

SENATOR CLARK: Frankly, I've been very critical of the administration for not having gotten out more Americans earlier. We've known for 30 days now that they were going to have to come

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out and yet over the weekend, for example, very late in the game, they took out only 76 -- a net gain of 76 on Saturday, 65 on Sunday, and that left about a thousand Americans there when Tannsonhut was really closed down.

EDWARDS: Clark says many American lives were needlessly in danger.

Senator Barry Goldwater, speaking to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington, says he feels a sense of relief but he adds Americans should pause for a sense of shame because the war could have been won.

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FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

PROGRAM UPI World Desk

STATION WAVA Radio
UPI Network

DATE April 29, 1975 5:00 PM

CITY Washington, D.C.

REPORT ON EVACUATION

BRIAN McFADIN: In Washington Henry Kissinger had held a news conference to discuss the evacuation from South Vietnam.

Kissinger was asked whether he feels there'll be a bloody battle in Saigon now.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: It is clear that's what's being aimed at is a substantial political takeover. Now whether it is possible to avoid a battle for Saigon, it is too early to judge.

McFADIN: Kissinger says the U.S. had been in contact with the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese. He says as late as Sunday night the administration felt there was a chance for a negotiated settlement in Vietnam. Kissinger says the impatience of the communists to seize power forced the emergency evacuation from Saigon.

President Ford says the end of the evacuation closes a chapter in American experience. He says Americans must now close ranks, avoid recriminations, work together and look ahead to new goals.

This is UPI World News.

For most of the early part of the day the word from the White House was that the Saigon evacuation was going smoothly, but later in the day it became apparent that there were problems. Bad weather and darkness combined to slow the pullout down. The three hour operation turned into a 15 hour operation. There were also losses in today's evacuation. UPI's Gene Gibbons reports.

GENE GIBBONS: The Pentagon says that one of the helicopters involved indirectly in the evacuation went down in the South China Sea. Two of its four crewmen are missing. There were no passengers aboard at the time of the crash, which apparently occurred as the chopper was orbiting the evacuation fleet. The chopper was identified as a Marine CH-46.

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A Navy jet was also lost at sea during the rescue operation, but its pilot was recovered safely. The pilot was forced to bail out of the plane, an A-7 Skyhawk, when trouble developed shortly after takeoff from the carrier Enterprise.

This is Gene Gibbons at the Pentagon.

McFADIN: The late word from the Pentagon, those two missing helicopter crewmen now presumed dead.

The Marine Corps announced today the names of the two Marines killed in yesterday's rocket attack on Saigon airport. They are Corporal Charles McMann of Wilburn, Massachusetts and Lance Corporal Darwin Judge of Marshaltown, Ohio -- pardon me, Iowa. In Marshaltown today Mrs. Judge expressed her feelings to newsmen.

MRS. JUDGE: It's kind of hard to say but I do believe that they should have moved a little faster and gotten our boys out before this all did happen. I feel like the government here should have protected our boys while they were over there.

REPORTER: Do you think there was a lack of protection then?

MRS. JUDGE: To a certain extent, yes. Because if they're going to send our boys over there, I think that they should have had a backing or get them out sooner.

McFADIN: Mrs. Henry Judge whose son, a Marine, was one of the last Americans killed in Vietnam.

At one point in this evening's news conference, Henry Kissinger was asked if he felt the evacuation should have been carried out sooner.

HENRY KISSINGER: We got out by -- with all of the personnel that was there without -- without panic and without the substantial casualties that could have occurred if civil order had totally broken down.

We also managed to save 56000 people whose lives was in the most severe jeopardy.

McFADIN: Kissinger explained that the administration was trying to decide on a daily basis how to get evacuees out of Saigon without causing panic.

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FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

PROGRAM CBS News

STATION

WTOP Radio
CBS Network

DATE April 29, 1975 5:00 PM

CITY

Washington, D.C.

TWO REPORTS

DOUGLAS EDWARDS: We're still waiting for the White House announcement that the evacuation of Americans from Saigon has completed.

I'm Douglas Edwards reporting on the CBS Radio Network.

The announcement is expected from White House spokesman Ron Nessen. It is to be followed by a briefing by Secretary of State Kissinger. CBS News will bring live coverage direct from the Executive Office Building over many of these stations.

U.S. involvement in Vietnam is ending and the long planned withdrawal after the President's order for helicopters and Marines to bring out the remaining Americans from besieged Saigon.

Watching those developments from the White House is Bernard Kalb.

BERNARD KALB: If the schedule was met, the U.S. evacuation from Vietnam has been completed. Presidential spokesman Ron Nessen telling reporters that 19 helicopters comprised the final airlift. They took off from U.S. naval vessels at about 2:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time on the approximately 100 mile flight to Saigon. Nine of those choppers were put down one at a time on the helicopter pad on the embassy roof. The other ten choppers one at a time on a parking lot at the embassy.

Their job to pick up some 600 persons, about 135 of them Americans with Ambassador Graham Martin to depart on the final U.S. helicopter out of South Vietnam scheduled for 30 minutes ago. That was the plan. So far no official confirmation that the operation has been completed.

Bernard Kalb, CBS News, the White House.

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EDWARDS: The Pentagon reported that one of the helicopters used in the evacuation crashed at sea and two Marine crew members are missing. The copter carried four crew members but no evacuees.

The Communists who have demanded that every American be removed from South Vietnam have not interfered with the operation.

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DOUGLAS EDWARDS: Defense Secretary James Schlesinger has become the first incumbent official of any administration to label the Vietnamese war a failure. In a message to the Armed Forces, Schlesinger said the attempt had not been without purpose.

At the request of the White House a bill providing 327 million dollars in evacuation and humanitarian aid for South Vietnam has been removed from the calendar of the House of Representatives. The House had been scheduled to vote on it sometime today.

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FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

PROGRAM UPI World Desk

STATION WAVA Radio
UPI Network

DATE April 29, 1975 12:00 Noon

CITY Washington, D.C.

FINAL EVACUATION

JIM LANSBERRY: The United States pulled out of South Vietnam today. U.S. Ambassador Graham Martin has radioed from Saigon that the U.S. evacuation should be over at this hour.

Political sources say there is now agreement in principal for a ceasefire. UPI's Arthur Higby has a different report in Paris.

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LANSBERRY: Hundreds more Vietnamese left Saigon this morning along with most Americans. Many flew to Thailand on South Vietnam's -- South Vietnamese military planes. Several South Vietnamese military helicopters with military personnel and their families aboard flew out to U.S. Navy carriers off the coast. Some of these choppers ditched in the water, everybody reportedly picked up okay.

The American evacuation this morning came on orders from South Vietnamese President "Big" Minh. UPI's Alan Dawson and other UPI newsmen have been covering the story and this is an eyewitness report a short while ago from correspondent Dawson.

ALAN DAWSON: ...in Saigon on -- on this night of the American evacuation. Off in the distance, as night fell, the Viet Cong hit what appeared to be a very large ammo dump, sending very large fire balls up into the sky and it's still burning as we look out the window. Looks about 20 miles to the southeast of us. The helicopters are flying through heavy clouds and lightning and it's a very eerie effect, especially combined with a lot of gunfire on the streets as the troops attempt to get people off the streets and back in their homes.

LANSBERRY: Correspondent Dawson is one of four UPI newsmen still in the bureau in Saigon. Five others made it to evacuation buses or the U.S. embassy.

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FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

PROGRAM CBS News

STATION WTOP Radio
CBS Network

DATE April 30, 1975 7:40 AM

CITY Washington, D.C.

STATEMENT BY ADMIRAL GUYLER

DOUGLAS EDWARDS: Admiral Noel Guyler, Commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific, discussed the evacuation this morning with newsmen in Honolulu.

ADMIRAL NOEL GUYLER: As Churchill once said in connection with Dunkirk, "wars are not won by evacuation." Nonetheless, I think this one is one in which I think we can take some pride. We not only looked after our own, but we also looked out after unfortunates whose fate, would have otherwise would have been pretty tough.

EDWARDS: Admiral Guyler said he was especially proud of the fact that in the entire operation, it was found necessary to open fire only once. That was when two support planes came under anti-aircraft attack, and then they defended themselves by firing back.

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FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

PROGRAM First Line Report

STATION WTOP Radio
CBS Network

DATE April 30, 1975 7:42 AM

CITY Washington, D.C.

FULL TEXT

BOB SCHIEFFER: First Line Report, News and Commentary. I'm Bob Schieffer, CBS News correspondent, reporting on the CBS Radio Network.

The last day in Vietnam. We'll have some thoughts on that after this message.

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SCHIEFFER: Word that the end was coming came as so many developments in this war-of-another-time-zone came. In the dead of night while many Americans slept. And, as happens so often in this long war, the last stages of it were marked by the confusion and controversy that has marked so much of it.

The President had been told late Monday afternoon that two American Marines had been killed in Saigon and that the Saigon airport was under increasingly heavy attack. But it was not until 11:00 that night that the situation had worsened to the point that the order was finally given to evacuate the last Americans. And even as the field reports made it clear that the evacuation was underway, the official spokesmen in Washington found themselves, for one last time, unable to tell all they really knew about the reports coming in from the war zone.

It was not until late yesterday afternoon, almost 24 hours after the President had been told the situation was growing worse, that the White House officials were finally able to report that the evacuation had completed.

The evacuation, according to officials here, had been delayed by bad weather. But they also acknowledged that, somehow, in all the confusion, incorrect orders had been circulated which had left the rescue helicopters flying in circles at one point, rather than landing to bring out the evacuees.

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But even as the official announcement was being made by the White House yesterday, another confusing development was unfolding.

It was discovered, after that official announcement, that after the evacuation was completed that about thirty American Marines, one of them reportedly a general, had been left behind and were not only being fired on, but were firing back.

By 8:00 last night, another Marine helicopter had been brought in and rescued the last of the Americans from the roof of the U.S. Embassy. Minutes later, once all the Americans were out, the South Vietnamese and looted the huge building. They carted off anything that wasn't tied down and then set the building afire.

It was a possibility that such things might develop in all the confusion, that prompted the President to tell a group of Congressmen earlier in the day that the evacuation had gone well so far, but there were still some hairy hours ahead.

The President, according to his aides, felt the evacuation operation did go smoothly, all things considered. He told the Cabinet the United States had come out of a very delicate situation, better than we have any right to expect. What he meant by that, his aide said, was that the choppers had gone in, in bad weather, and in darkness some of the time, facing the possibility of coming under the fire of both North and South Vietnamese soldiers.

It was a dangerous and tricky operation at best. And one of the reasons that Mr. Ford's people reported later that the last few days at the White House were not days for philosophizing.

The attention here was on the evacuation and trying to get it completed as smoothly and as safely as possible, said one official. It was not much time to think about what it all meant or where we would go from here.

The evacuation had been so complicated and carried out in such confusion that once it was done, the surrender of Big Minh came as something of an anti-climax to official Washington. Almost everyone had expected that, the only question that had remained was when it would come about.

The Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese had made it clear earlier in the week, that they had intended to force

events and had no intention of negotiating anything except surrender terms.

But even though it was somewhat anti-climactic in official Washington, the surrender meant that thirty years of continuous war in Indochina was coming to an end. Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott, who had spoken with reporters at the White House earlier in the day after meeting with the President, probably expressed the feelings of many official Washington. "I doubt, he said, " that many people here ever thought it would end this way."

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FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

PROGRAM CBS News

STATION WTOP Radio
CBS Network

DATE April 30, 1975 8:00 AM

CITY Washington, D.C.

FREQUENT WIND

DOUGLAS EDWARDS: And now, from the Pentagon, here's a report from Ike Pappas.

IKE PAPPAS: While American helicopters lifted thousands to safety from Saigon, a mini-Dunkirk was taking place off the coast near Yung Tau, according to Pentagon sources.

Hundreds of South Vietnamese put to sea in small boats, the sources said, hoping to get picked up by American naval craft cruising the area. The American ships were too busy with the airborne operation to do much about it yesterday, but this morning they did begin picking up the South Vietnamese.

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PAPPAS: An air search continues for two crewmen of a helicopter that crashed at sea during the operation. Two crewmen were rescued but two disappeared and the Pentagon still lists them as missing.

Meanwhile, the main part of the task force that participated in the evacuation continues to steam for American ports, probably Guam and Subic Bay, Phillipines. The last helicopter departed Saigon at 7:52 last night, nearly 20 hours after the operation began.

Pentagon sources, this morning revealed the code name of the operation. It was called, "Frequent Wind."

Ike Pappas, CBS News, Pentagon.

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FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

PROGRAM NBC Radio News

STATION WRC Radio
NBC Network

DATE April 30, 1975 5:00 PM

CITY Washington, D.C.

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY LAITIN

STEVE PORTER: It may cost more than half-a-billion to relocate the thousands of Indochina refugees beginning the long journey from the Orient to new homes in the U.S. The \$500 million figure is only a rough estimate, but it's expected the President will be asking Congress for a specific amount within a very short period of time.

Already, hundreds of refugees have begun arriving at military airfields in California. The number of South Vietnamese that managed to scramble out of their country before the communists took over is far larger than originally estimated.

Joseph Laitin, Assistant Secretary of Defense, says the number could be four times that announced yesterday.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY JOSEPH LAITIN: We now estimate that the total evacuees on board Navy and MSC ships, including the 7,000-plus that came aboard by helicopter is now estimated at 25 thousand people. Of these, 1,000 are Americans.

PORTER: Layton's estimate is limited to those still aboard ships. The State Department estimates there are 55 thousand other Indochina refugees in camps in the Pacific or in the U.S.

DECLASSIFIED

REF ID: A66000-0000

SUCH A CONCLUSION.

TIME, BUT HE IMPLIED THAT EVENTS IN VIETNAM HAD NOT BROUGHT HIM TO
HE DID NOT EXPLAIN WHETHER HE MEANT HE WOULD STEP DOWN AT SUCH A

CONSEQUENCES FROM THIS, KISSINGER TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE.

WHAT THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED OF ME, THEN I WOULD DRAW THE

"IF I SHOULD EVER COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT I COULD NOT FULFILL

WHICH HE NEGOTIATED IN 1973.

INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM AND THE COLLAPSE OF THE PARIS PEACE ACCORDS

A DIPLOMAT HAD BEEN AFFECTED BY THE ABRUPT ENDING OF AMERICAN

BUT KISSINGER DECLINED TO ANSWER DIRECTLY HOW HIS OWN PRESTIGE AS

COULD NO LONGER EFFECTIVELY EXECUTE U.S. FOREIGN POLICY.

YESTERDAY HE WOULD "DRAW THE CONSEQUENCES" IF HE EVER CONCLUDED HE

WASHINGTON, D.C. - SECRETARY OF STATE JIMMY CARTER

DECLASSIFIED

UP-012

(FOREIGN POLICY)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- THE INDOCHINA WAR ENDED AS NO OTHER AMERICAN CONFLICT HAD: U.S. CITIZENS AND THEIR FRIENDS WERE EVACUATED BY HELICOPTER WITH MARINES TO PROTECT THEM FROM BOTH THE ENEMY AND THE FORMER ALLIES THEY LEFT BEHIND.

THERE WERE NO RALLIES IN TIMES SQUARE, NO TICKER TAPE PARADES, NO TRIUMPHANT HOMECOMINGS. ONLY CONCERN THAT A LAST-MINUTE ATTACK MIGHT ENDANGER THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO WERE LEAVING.

OFFICIALS SAID YESTERDAY, THE UNITED STATES HAD TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE COMMUNISTS TO MAKE SURE THE EVACUATION WENT SMOOTHLY.

THE UNITED STATES HAS LOST OTHER CONFLICTS, ENDURED HUMILIATIONS FROM THE BARBARY PIRATES TO THE "LOSS" OF CHINA. BUT VIETNAM JUST ENDED. HELICOPTERS RETURNED LATE TUESDAY FOR THE FEW MARINES LEFT FROM THE EVACUATION OF THE U.S. EMBASSY.

SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER SAID YESTERDAY FORD WILL CONSULT WITH A NUMBER OF ASIAN NATIONS AS HE TRIES TO FORM A NEW FOREIGN POLICY.

"WE HOPE TO CRYSTALLIZE A NEW ASIAN POLICY AFTER CLOSE CONSULTATIONS" WITH LEADERS OF SINGAPORE, AUSTRALIA, THE PHILIPPINES, THAILAND AND SOUTH KOREA, KISSINGER TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE.

HE SAID PRESIDENT FORD HAS ALREADY REAFFIRMED U.S. COMMITMENTS TO JAPAN DURING THE RECENT OFFICIAL VISIT OF JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER

DECLASSIFIED

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WASHINGTON (UPI) -- WHEN PRESIDENT FORD'S SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED AT A NEWS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY THE EVACUATION OF SAIGON WAS COMPLETE, THE WHITE HOUSE WAS NOT AWARE THAT A SMALL GROUP OF U.S. MARINES REMAINED BEHIND.

THE LAST 11 MARINES WHO WERE GUARDING THE U.S. EMBASSY WERE

EVACUATED FROM THERE AT 7:52 P.M. EDT, THE PENTAGON SAID.

WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY RON NESSEN EXPLAINED: "EARLIER TODAY

WE ANNOUNCED THAT THE EVACUATION HAD BEEN COMPLETED. AT THAT TIME WE WERE NOT AWARE THAT AN ELEMENT OF THE GROUND SECURITY FORCE REMAINED

TO BE EVACUATED. THEREFORE, THE COMPLETION OF THE EVACUATION OF THESE PERSONNEL ACTUALLY OCCURRED AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE PRESS

CONFERENCE. LATEST REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE REMAINING SECURITY

FORCES NOW HAVE BEEN EVACUATED.

-0-

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

A322 H

U I

VIET 4-29

BULLETIN

3RD NIGHT LD A299

BY ALAN DAWSON

SAIGON (UPI) -- SOUTH VIETNAM SURRENDERED WEDNESDAY TO THE COMMUNISTS AND ENDED THE WAR.

UPI 04-29 10:48 PED

A323

U I

VIET 4-29

URGENT

1ST ADD 3RD NIGHT LD VIET SAIGON A222 XX THE WAR.

PRESIDENT DUONG VAN MINH ANNOUNCED THE SURRENDER HOURS AFTER THE UNITED STATES PULLED OUT OF VIETNAM, WHERE IT SPENT 14 YEARS, \$150 BILLION AND MORE THAN 50,000 LIVES TRYING TO STOP A COMMUNIST TAKEOVER.

MINH TOLD GOVERNMENT SOLDIERS TO STOP FIGHTING.

THE HASTY HELICOPTER LIFT HAULED SOME 900 AMERICANS FROM THE COUNTRY TO WAITING VESSELS IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA. THE STARS AND STRIPES WERE PULLED DOWN AT THE U.S. EMBASSY AND OFFICIALLY ENDED THE U.S. PRESENCE -- ONE OF THE MAJOR COMMUNIST DEMANDS BEFORE PEACE TALKS COULD START.

MORE

UPI 04-29 10:51 PED

DECLASSIFIED

11 1.
 CRASH 4-30
 1ST NIGHT LD A258
 BY KATE WEBB

ABOARD THE USS BLUE RIDGE (UPI) -- U.S. AMBASSADOR GRAHAM MARTIN AND SENIOR MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF FLEW OUT OF SAIGON ABOARD A MARINE HELICOPTER EARLY WEDNESDAY AND LANDED BEFORE DAWN ON THE COMMUNICATIONS SHIP USS BLUE RIDGE IN A THUNDER STORM.

THE ENVOY FLEW IN ONE OF THE WAVES OF HELICOPTERS GUARDED BY U.S. MARINES AND AIR FORCE BOMBERS THAT EVACUATED THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS AND VIETNAMESE TO AN AMERICAN NAVAL TASK FORCE 30 MILES OFF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE COAST.

EMBASSY SOURCES SAID SOME 20 AMERICANS AND 200 VIETNAMESE EMBASSY PERSONNEL REMAINED INSIDE THE EMBASSY GROUNDS IN SAIGON WHEN THE AMBASSADOR PULLED OUT, BUT IT WAS NOT IMMEDIATELY KNOWN IF THEY MANAGED TO GET OUT LATER.

SEVENTH FLEET COMMANDER VICE ADM. G.P. STEELE MET THE AMBASSADOR'S HELICOPTER AS IT TOUCHED DOWN ON THE FLIGHT DECK AT 5:45 A.M.

MARTIN, LOOKING WEARY AND DRAWN, WAS NOT CARRYING THE U.S. FLAG, AND IT WAS NOT IMMEDIATELY CLEAR WHETHER HE HAD IT WITH HIM.

ONE MEMBER OF THE EMBASSY STAFF SAID A GRENADE WAS THROWN INTO A CROWD OF VIETNAMESE CLAMORING OUTSIDE THE HIGH EMBASSY FRONT WALL LATE TUESDAY EVENING.

"I JUST DUCKED AND KEPT OUT OF IT," HE SAID. "I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY IF ANY WERE HURT."

HE SAID SHREDDING OF EMBASSY DOCUMENTS WAS COMPLETED TUESDAY NIGHT. WHEN EVACUATION HELICOPTERS LANDED, THEY RAISED A "SNOW STORM OF SHREDDED PAPERS," HE SAID.

THE EVACUATION OF THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS AND VIETNAMESE, COMING JUST BEFORE THE SURRENDER OF SAIGON TO THE COMMUNISTS, WAS A HAZARDOUS OPERATION.

HELICOPTERS CRASH LANDED IN THE TOSSING SEAS AND EXPLODED. MILITARY SPOKESMEN SAID TWO U.S. MARINES WERE MISSING IN ACCIDENTS.

PICKUP 4TH PGH: ON THE. AND ELIMINATE 19TH PGH: THERE WAS

UPI 04-29 11:57 PED

DECLASSIFIED

VIET 4-29

URGENT

4TH ADD 3RD NIGHT LD VIET SAIGON A322 XXX CEREMONIES."

"ALL SOLDIERS, BE CALM AND REMAIN WHERE YOU ARE NOW," SAID THE PRESIDENT.

"I ALSO CALL ON SOLDIERS NOT TO OPEN FIRE SO THAT TOGETHER WE CAN DISCUSS WAYS TO HAND OVER THE REINS OF GOVERNMENT WITHOUT BLOODSHED." MINH PROPOSED THE FORMATION OF A NEW MILITARY AND CIVILIAN ADMINISTRATION. COULD STILL BE HEARD. FIGHTING CONTINUED ON THE OUTSKIRTS 22

"IN THE INTEREST OF PEACE, NATIONAL CONCILIATION AND CONCORD OF THE PEOPLE, TO SAVE THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE, I BELIEVE DEEPLY IN CONCILIATION AMONG THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE," MINH SAID.

"THEREFORE, I CALL ON ALL THE SOLDIERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM TO STAY WHERE YOU ARE.

"WE ALSO CALL ON THE SOLDIERS OF THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT (VIET CONG) NOT TO OPEN FIRE BECAUSE WE HERE ARE WAITING TO MEET WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PRG TO DISCUSS THE TURNOVER OF THE ADMINISTRATION, BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY, WITHOUT CAUSING SENSELESS BLOODSHED TO THE PEOPLE."

UPI 04-29 11:08 PED

DECLASSIFIED

U I

VIET 4-29

URGENT

2ND ADD 3RD NIGHT LD VIET SAIGON A222 XX START.

LEFT BEHIND WERE A HANDFUL OF AMERICANS, INCLUDING NEWSMEN, WHO ELECTED TO STAY.

MINH'S ANNOUNCEMENT ENDED 35 YEARS OF FIGHTING IN SOUTH VIETNAM THAT BEGAN WHEN THE JAPANESE INVADED INDOCHINA IN 1940. AFTER WORLD WAR II, THE FIGHTING CONTINUED WITH COMMUNISTS BATTLING THE FRENCH AND LATER THE AMERICAN-BACKED GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM.

PRESIDENT FORD SAID MARINE HELICOPTERS ESCORTED BY F4 PHANTOM JETS EVACUATED ALL AMERICANS WHO WANTED TO LEAVE -- ABOUT 900 OF THEM -- AND THAT THE PULOUT WAS SUCCESSFUL, "CLOSING A CHAPTER" ON U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN INDOCHINA.

SAIGON'S SURRENDER CAME 12 DAYS AFTER CAMBODIA FELL TO THE PRO-COMMUNIST KHMER ROUGE REBELS.

MORE

UPI 04-29 10:56 PEN

A325

U I

VIET 4-29

URGENT

3RD ADD 3RD NIGHT LD VIET SAIGON A222 XX REBELS.

THE BEGINNING OF THE END FOR SOUTH VIETNAM WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION IN MID-MARCH TO ABANDON PROVINCES IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS. VIET CONG AND NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES SWEEP IN AND GAINED MOMENTUM THAT QUICKLY CARRIED THEM ACROSS THE NORTHERN TWO-THIRDS OF THE COUNTRY.

AT THE TIME OF THE SURRENDER, COMMUNIST FORCES HELD THREE-FOURTHS OF SOUTH VIETNAM AND 23 OF THE COUNTRY'S 44 PROVINCES, AND HAD SAIGON ITSELF ALL BUT SURROUNDED WITH AN ESTIMATED 150,000 TROOPS WITH TANKS, ARTILLERY AND ROCKETS.

THE HEAVIEST COMMUNIST ATTACK OF THE WAR ON SAIGON'S TAN SON NHUT AIR BASE EARLY TUESDAY KILLED TWO U.S. MARINES AND PROMPTED PRESIDENT FORD TO DECIDE ON "OPTION 4" -- A QUICK AND MASSIVE HELICOPTER EVACUATION OF ALL REMAINING OFFICIAL AMERICANS FROM VIETNAM.

MINH, WHO HAD ASKED THE AMERICANS TO LEAVE, ADDRESSED HIS COUNTRY FOR 60 SECONDS WEDNESDAY. HE TOLD HIS TROOPS TO LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS AND ASKED THE VIET CONG TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS FOR WHAT HE CALLED "TURNOVER CEREMONIES."

MORE

UPI 04-29 11:03 PEN

A326

R A

ADVISORY 4-29

EDITORS:

THE A-WIRE REFERENCE NUMBERS IN A323, A324 AND A325 SHOULD BE A322 INSTEAD OF A222.

UPI 04-29 11:04 PEN

A315

R A

MARINES 4-29

1ST ADD A295 XXX 7:52 P.M. EDT

THE DEPARTURE OF THE LAST MARINES WAS MORE THAN TWO HOURS AFTER A STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT FORD DECLARING THE EVACUATION COMPLETE WAS READ TO REPORTERS. WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY RON NESSEN EXPLAINED: "EARLIER TODAY WE ANNOUNCED THAT THE EVACUATION HAD BEEN COMPLETED. AT THAT TIME WE WERE NOT AWARE THAT AN ELEMENT OF THE GROUND SECURITY FORCE REMAINED TO BE EVACUATED. THEREFORE, THE COMPLETION OF THE EVACUATION OF THESE PERSONNEL ACTUALLY OCCURRED AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE. LATEST REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE REMAINING SECURITY FORCES NOW HAVE BEEN EVACUATED."

A PENTAGON SPOKESMAN SAID THAT EVACUATION FLIGHT WOULD BE THE LAST.

UPI 04-29 10:05 PEN

A301

D I

CRASH 4-29

WITH VIET

BY KATE WEBB

ABOARD THE USS BLUE RIDGE, SOUTH CHINA SEA (UPI) -- HELICOPTERS CRASH LANDED AND EXPLODED OVER THE SOUTH CHINA SEA TO HERALD THE START OF TUESDAY'S PANICKY EVACUATION FROM SAIGON.

THEY CARRIED AMERICANS, PLUS SOME VIETNAMESE MILITARY SEEKING SAFETY ABOARD U.S. SHIPS OFF THE COAST OF VIETNAM.

A TOTAL OF 40 7TH FLEET SHIPS GATHERED 30 MILES OFF VUNG TAU FOR THE TASK.

ON THE BLUE RIDGE, COORDINATOR FOR THE EVACUATION TASK FORCE, 16 HELICOPTERS LANDED ON THE SHIP'S ONE LANDING PAD WITHIN TWO HOURS, SPILLING THEIR CARGOES OF AMERICANS AND VIETNAMESE, SOME OF THEM GENERALS.

ONE OF THE PASSENGERS WAS VIETNAMESE AIR VICE MARSHAL NGUYEN CAO KY. ANOTHER WAS THE WIFE OF U.S. AMBASSADOR GRAHAM MARTIN. THEY WERE REPORTED SAFE ABOARD THE USS DENVER BY MIDDAY.

FIGHTING FOR LANDING SPACE, TWO HELICOPTERS COLLIDED ON THE DECK AND SENT STEEL HUNKS OF ROTOR BLADE FLYING OVER THE SHIP.

ANOTHER SMASHED INTO THE SHIP'S SIDE, HURLING DEBRIS OVER THE DECK. THE PILOTS JUMPED, SWAM AND HURLED THEMSELVES CLEAR OF THRASHING BLADES AND EXPLODING ENGINES.

COLONELS AND GENERALS WERE SUBMITTED TO THE SAME BODY SEARCH AS PRIVATES. ONE THREE-STAR GENERAL CARRIED A SUITCASE LOADED WITH GOLD. OTHERS HAD BROUGHT ODDMENTS SUCH AS C-RATIONS, RICE, BAMBOO FANS AND CARTONS OF CIGARETTES. MANY OF THE VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS CARRIED NOTHING -- NOT EVEN THEIR WEAPONS.

ON THE BLUE RIDGE INTERCOM CAME REPORTS OF HEAVY SHELLING AND MORTARING ON VUNG TAU BEACH, REPORTED PACKED WITH REFUGEES. ONE TASK FORCE SHIP REPORTED 1,000 FISHING BOATS HEADING OUT TO SEA.

A SECOND SHIP SAID IT HAD TAKEN ON 400 PERSONS AND WAS BEING TAILED BY 10 BOATS WITH 20 MORE TRYING TO REACH IT.

YET ANOTHER SHIP CALLED FOR FOOD AND 200 GALLONS OF WATER.

AT ONE POINT, SHIP'S CAPT. WILLIAM D. HART ANNOUNCED SEVERAL AIR AMERICA HELICOPTERS HAD BEEN HIJACKED AT TAN SON NHUT AIRPORT. HE SAID THAT EXPLAINED WHY SEVERAL FLYING AROUND THE SHIP HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN LANDING PERMISSION.

THE OFFICIAL U.S. EVACUATION, CODENAMED "FREQUENT WIND," STARTED AT 2:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME. SCORES OF MARINE HELICOPTER LIFTED OFF IN WAVES FROM THE CARRIERS OKINAWA, HANCOCK AND MIDWAY.

THE HELICOPTERS DRONED OFF UNDER F4 PHANTOM JET ESCORT 25 MILES OVER THE SOUTH CHINA SEA INTO SAIGON.

BY EVENING, THE NAVY ANNOUNCED THAT 4,582 PERSONS HAD BEEN LIFTED OUT.

THE LATE EVENING SKY WAS FILLED WITH HELICOPTERS CIRCLING THE CARRIERS LOOKING FOR SPACE TO LAND. SOME TRIED TO TOUCH DOWN ON DESTROYERS AND HAD TO BE WAVED OFF.

AS THE PASSENGERS WERE FRISKED, DISARMED AND SHOWN BELOW DECKS A WATCHING MARINE COMMENTED, "THIS IS A LESSON IN HUMILITY."

AS NIGHT FELL, A RED CROSS FLAG WAS HOISTED AND LIGHTS STRUNG ABOARD THE BLUE RIDGE.

THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE WORD HERE WHETHER U.S. AMBASSADOR MARTIN HAD BEEN EVACUATED, OR WHETHER HE WAS REMAINING IN SAIGON TO BE THE LAST OUT TO CARRY THE U.S. FLAG AS AMBASSADOR JOHN DEAN DID BEFORE HIM IN PHNOM PENH.

(IN WASHINGTON SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER SAID THAT AMBASSADOR MARTIN HAD BEEN SAFELY EVACUATED.)

KY, WHO TRANSFERRED TO THE BLUE RIDGE, STOOD STIFFLY ON THE DECK STARING STRAIGHT AHEAD. HE WAS SPARED THE SEARCH THAT SOME OF THE COUNTRY'S TOP GENERALS, INCLUDING CORPS COMMANDERS, HAD TO SUBMIT TO.

ALL SHIPS WERE ORDERED TO RECEIVE ANY HELICOPTERS, SMALL CRAFT OR SHIPS THAT REQUESTED PERMISSION TO TRANSFER REFUGEES OR TO LAND.

DUPLICATE TO B-WIRE POINTS

UPI 04-29 08:49 PED

A295

U A

MARINES 4-29

URGENT

1ST LD A285

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- A HELICOPTER LIFTED OFF THE LAST 11 OF THE MARINE SECURITY FORCE FROM THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN SAIGON AT 7:52 P.M. EDT. THE PENTAGON SAID TUESDAY.

"THE PENTAGON RECEIVED WORD AT 7:52 P.M. EDT THAT THE LAST HELICOPTER WITH 11 MARINE SECURITY PERSONNEL ABOARD HAS SAFELY DEPARTED THE EMBASSY IN SAIGON," A SPOKESMAN SAID.

EARLIER, IT WAS REPORTED THAT SOME 30 U.S. MARINE GUARDS WERE STILL AT THE EMBASSY AND THAT THERE WAS SMALL ARMS FIRE IN THE VICINITY.

A SPOKESMAN SAID THAT AFTER U.S. AMBASSADOR GRAHAM MARTIN HAD LEFT THERE REMAINED MORE THAN 100 MARINES. THESE WERE LIFTED OFF BY HELICOPTER WITH THE LAST CHOPPER UP AND AWAY AT 7:52 P.M. EDT.

INCLUDES PREVIOUS

UPI 04-29 08:18 PED

A299

U I

VIET 4-29

URGENT

2ND NIGHT LD A268

BY ALAN DAWSON

SAIGON (UPI) -- THE UNITED STATES PULLED OUT OF VIETNAM TUESDAY AND LEFT IT UP TO THE VIETNAMESE TO FIND PEACE. U.S. HELICOPTERS SWEEP INTO SAIGON EARLY WEDNESDAY AND RETRIEVED A GROUP OF 30 MARINES AMONG THE FEW AMERICANS REMAINING IN THE CITY.

THE LAST AMERICAN OFFICIALLY IN VIETNAM LEFT AT 7:52 P.M. EDT WHEN A HELICOPTER CARRYING THE LAST 11 MARINES LIFTED UP AND AWAY FROM THE VACATED U.S. EMBASSY.

LEFT BEHIND WERE A HANDFUL OF AMERICANS, INCLUDING NEWSMEN, WHO DECIDED TO STAY.

THE AMERICANS WERE ORDERED OUT BY NEW PRESIDENT DUONG VAN MINH TO MEET ONE OF THE COMMUNISTS' MAJOR CONDITIONS FOR PEACE TALKS -- AN END TO THE U.S. PRESENCE. POLITICAL SOURCES SAID THE COMMUNISTS AND THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO CALL A CEASE-FIRE WEDNESDAY.

PRESIDENT FORD ANNOUNCED IN WASHINGTON SHORTLY AFTER 5 P.M. EDT THAT MARINE HELICOPTERS HAD FLOWN OUT ALL AMERICANS -- ABOUT 900 -- WHO WANTED TO LEAVE AND THAT THE EVACUATION HAD BEEN COMPLETED SUCCESSFULLY, "CLOSING A CHAPTER" ON U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN INDOCHINA.

BUT TWO HOURS LATER, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON SAID SOME 30 MARINE GUARDS WERE STILL IN THE U.S. EMBASSY AND THAT HELICOPTERS WERE FLYING IN TO LIFT THEM OUT.

UPI CORRESPONDENT LEON DANIEL, AMONG THE HANDFUL OF AMERICAN NEWSMEN STILL IN SAIGON, REPORTED THAT HELICOPTERS WERE LANDING AGAIN AT THE EMBASSY AT DAWN WEDNESDAY AND THAT SMALL ARMS FIRE ERUPTED NEAR THE CENTER OF THE CITY. THERE WERE NO IMMEDIATE REPORTS OF CASUALTIES.

DANIEL SAID STILL MORE VIETNAMESE WERE WAITING ON ROOFTOPS AROUND SAIGON, APPARENTLY STILL HOPING HELICOPTERS WOULD COME TO EVACUATE THEM FROM THE COUNTRY.

PICKUP 4TH PGH: ABOARD

UPI 04-29 08:32 PED

(TACTICS)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER SAID TUESDAY THE TACTICAL PLANS FOR EVACUATING AMERICANS AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE CITIZENS FROM SAIGON HAD TO BE CHANGED AT THE LAST MINUTE.

TALKING WITH REPORTERS AFTER HIS TELEVISED NEWS CONFERENCE, KISSINGER DISCLOSED THE SHIFT IN PLANS WHEN ASKED WHY THE RESCUE OPERATIONS APPEARED TO RUN SEVERAL HOURS LONGER THAN EXPECTED.

HE SAID THE PLAN ALL ALONG WAS TO EVACUATE ABOUT 5,000 OR 6,000 "HIGH RISK VIETNAMESE" FROM TAN SON NHUT AIRPORT, CARRYING THEM OUT ABOARD FIXED-WING C130 CARGO PLANES. HE SAID HELICOPTERS WERE TO BE USED ONLY TO CARRY OUT A FEW HUNDRED AMERICANS AT THE U.S. EMBASSY IN DOWNTOWN SAIGON.

THE IDEA, HE SAID WAS TO HAVE "AN ALTERNATE LANDING CAPABILITY" FOR HELICOPTERS AT THE EMBASSY IN CASE OFFICIALS FOUND THAT MILITARY ATTACKS PREVENTED FURTHER USE OF THE AIRPORT.

HE SAID THE AIRPORT SITUATION DETERIORATED FASTER THAN EXPECTED AND IT THEN BECAME NECESSARY TO MOVE MANY VIETNAMESE OVER TO THE EMBASSY INSTEAD FOR EVACUATION BY HELICOPTER.

"THIS WAS REALLY A LOGICAL OUTGROWTH OF THE PATTERN," KISSINGER SAID. "WE JUST MOVED THE PEOPLE THAT WERE SUPPOSED TO BE LIFTED BY C130S ONTO HELICOPTERS AND NOT TO DO THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN BOTH INHUMAN AND POTENTIALLY WOULD HAVE COMPOUNDED THE PANIC THAT ALREADY EXISTED AT THE AIRPORT."

UPI 04-29 07127 PED

DECLASSIFIED

ADD 7 VIETNAM, WASHINGTON

ASKED HOW FORD REACTED DURING THE LAST CRITICAL HOURS, KISSINGER SAID:

"THE PRESIDENT'S MOOD WAS SOMBER AND DETERMINED AND WE ALL WENT THROUGH A SOMEWHAT ANXIOUS 24 HOURS. BECAUSE UNTIL THE LAST HELICOPTER HAD LEFT, WE COULDN'T REALLY KNOW WHEN AN ATTACK ON ANY OF THESE COMPOUNDS WOULD START AND WHETHER MISSILES WOULD BE USED AGAINST THEM."

A NEWSMAN ASKED IF IT WERE TRUE NIXON HAD DECIDED WITH KISSINGER'S ADVICE IN APRIL, 1973 TO RESUME BOMBING OF NORTH VIETNAM BUT THAT THE WATERGATE SCANDAL HAD INTERVENED.

"TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE," HE ANSWERED, "WE HAD NOT ACTUALLY DECIDED ON ANY PARTICULAR ACTION. THE WASHINGTON SPECIAL ACTION GROUP WAS CONSIDERING A NUMBER OF REACTIONS THAT COULD BE TAKEN AGAINST FLAGRANT VIOLATIONS OF THE (PARIS) AGREEMENT AND THIS WAS DONE ON AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL BASIS -- THE STATE DEPARTMENT, MY OFFICE, THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE -- AND HAD REACHED CERTAIN OPTIONS."

"AS IT TURNED OUT, NIXON NEVER MADE A FINAL DECISION ON THESE OPTIONS. AS TO WHAT AFFECT WATERGATE HAD PSYCHOLOGICALLY ..." HIS ANSWER TRAILED OFF.

UPI 04-29 06:32 PED

DECLASSIFIED

UP-140

ADD 6 VIETNAM, WASHINGTON

KISSINGER WAS ASKED IF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH VIETNAM WERE "IN ABEYANCE?"

"I THINK THAT WOULD BE A FAIR STATEMENT," HE REPLIED.

BEFORE AN ATTEMPT CAN BE MADE TO TRY RENEWING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH VIETNAM, HE SAID, "WE WILL HAVE TO SEE WHAT GROUPING EMERGES OUT OF WHATEVER NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT TAKE PLACE BETWEEN THE TWO SOUTH VIETNAMESE SIDES."

A REPORTER ASKED IF THE WAR HAD BEEN IN VAIN.

"I THINK IT WILL BE A LONG TIME BEFORE AMERICANS WILL BE ABLE TO TALK OR WRITE ABOUT THE WAR WITH SOME DISPASSION," KISSINGER REPLIED.

"IT IS CLEAR THAT THE WAR DID NOT ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES OF THOSE WHO STARTED THE AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT, OR THE OBJECTIVES OF THOSE WHO SOUGHT TO END IT," HE SAID, WARNING THAT THE FUTURE EXAMINATION OF BOTH AMERICA'S ENTRY TO THE WAR AND ITS EXIT SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN LIGHTLY.

KISSINGER SAID FORMER SOUTH VIETNAM PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN THIEU "WOULD, OF COURSE, BE RECEIVED" IF HE SOUGHT ASYLUM IN THE UNITED STATES. HE SAID THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE A SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE.

"I'M CONFIDENT THAT EVERY AMERICAN WHO WANTED TO COME OUT, CAME OUT," KISSINGER SAID, ADDING HE WOULD NOT KNOW UNTIL WEDNESDAY HOW MANY AMERICANS REMAINED BEHIND.

KISSINGER SAID THE UNITED STATES AND ITS ALLIES IN INDOCHINA AS WELL AS OTHER AMERICAN ALLIES AROUND THE WORLD MUST, IN LIGHT OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA, ASSESS THEIR FUTURE PATHS OF FRIENDSHIP.

"WE WILL HAVE TO ASSESS WHAT ROLE THE UNITED STATES WILL PLAY OVER AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME," HE SAID, ADDING THAT AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY SHOULD BE MADE OVER A PERIOD OF DECADES.

HE MENTIONED JAPAN, KOREA AND THE PHILIPPINES AS IMPORTANT AREAS OF CONSIDERATION AND SAID U.S. OFFICIALS WILL BE TALKING WITH LEADERS OF SINGAPORE, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND OTHER COUNTRIES TO FORMULATE AN ASIAN POLICY "WHICH MUST BE CLOSELY COORDINATED WITH OUR FRIENDS."

UPI 04-29 06:19 PED

UP-135

ADD 4 VIETNAM, WASHINGTON

KISSINGER SAID IT WAS "TOO EARLY TO JUDGE" WHETHER THERE WOULD BE A BLOODY BATTLE FOR SAIGON, BUT HE SAID IT WAS CLEAR THE NORTH VIETNAMESE SEEK A TOTAL POLITICAL TAKEOVER.

HE NOTED THAT THE "COMMUNIST DEMANDS HAVE ESCALATED AS THE MILITARY SITUATION HAS CHANGED IN THEIR FAVOR" OVER THE PAST WEEK.

HE SAID IT "WAS ALWAYS FORESEEN" THAT A HELICOPTER EVACUATION PROGRAM WOULD BE NEEDED TO REMOVE THE LAST AMERICANS FROM VIETNAM, AND THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TODAY BECAUSE OF THE DETERIORATING SITUATION AND THE "IMPATIENCE" OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE.

KISSINGER SAID THAT SO FAR AS THE UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED, THE PARIS ACCORDS WHICH ENDED THE FIGHTING IN VIETNAM TWO YEARS AGO, ARE DEAD.

"THERE AREN'T MANY PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT THAT ARE STILL RELEVANT," HE SAID. "AS FAR AS THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARE CONCERNED, THEY STATED THEY WISH TO CARRY OUT THE PARIS ACCORDS BUT BY WHAT DEFINITION IS NOT CLEAR TO US. WE WOULD CERTAINLY SUPPORT THIS IF IT HAS ANY MEANING."

AS FOR AMERICAN AID TO VIETNAM, HE SAID:

"I DO NOT FAVOR AMERICAN AID TO REBUILD NORTH VIETNAM. WITH RESPECT TO SOUTH VIETNAM, WE WILL HAVE TO SEE WHAT KIND OF GOVERNMENT EMERGES AND WHETHER THERE WILL BE A SOUTH VIETNAM. WE WOULD CERTAINLY LOOK AT SPECIFIC HUMANITARIAN REQUESTS WHICH CAN BE CARRIED OUT BY HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES. BUT THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY SHOULD FALL ON THOSE WHO SUPPLIED THE WEAPONS TO NORTH VIETNAM" -- CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION.

KISSINGER DEFENDED MARTIN'S HANDLING OF THE SITUATION, SAYING THE AMBASSADOR WAS IN "A VERY DIFFICULT SITUATION" AND "FELT AN OBLIGATION TO THOSE WITH WHOM HE HAD BEEN ASSOCIATED."

ASKED IF MARTIN'S DECISION TO BE "THE LAST MAN TO LEAVE A SINKING SHIP" HAD DELAYED TUESDAY'S FINAL EVACUATION, KISSINGER REPLIED THAT THE AMBASSADOR'S DESIRE TO SEE OTHERS FLOWN TO SAFETY WAS "NOT THE WORST FAULT A MAN CAN HAVE."

"I DO NOT BELIEVE THERE WAS AN UNDUE DELAY," SAID KISSINGER. "WE GOT OUT WITH ALL THE PERSONNEL THERE WITHOUT PANIC AND WITHOUT THE CASUALTIES THAT COULD HAVE OCCURRED" WITH A BREAKDOWN OF CIVIL ORDER.

KISSINGER LATER SAID HE MEANT NO CASUALTIES "CAUSED BY HOSTILE ACTION."

UPI 04-29 06:01 PED

UP-131

ADD 1 VIETNAM, WASHINGTON (UP-128)

NESSAN READ FORD'S STATEMENT JUST BEFORE SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER BRIEFED REPORTERS IN A NATIONALLY BROADCAST NEWS CONFERENCE.

THE FINAL PHASE OF THE EVACUATION TOOK LESS THAN 24 HOURS, MARRED BY THE LOSS OF THREE MILITARY AIRCRAFT. TWO CREW MEMBERS WERE REPORTED MISSING. IN ADDITION, TWO MARINES WERE KILLED MONDAY NIGHT.

KISSINGER SAID 6,500 U.S. CIVILIANS HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN THE EMERGENCY EVACUATION, AND 55,000 SOUTH VIETNAMESE CITIZENS.

KISSINGER SAID THE ADMINISTRATION'S AIMS OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS HAD BEEN TO STABILIZE THE SITUATION AND TO END U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE "MOST CONTROLLED AND HUMANE" MANNER.

THE THREE MAIN OBJECTIVES, KISSINGER SAID, WERE:

- TO SAVE THE LIVES OF AMERICANS STILL IN VIETNAM.
- TO SAVE AS MANY SOUTH VIETNAMESE AS POSSIBLE WHO WORKED WITH AMERICANS FOR 15 YEARS.
- TO BRING AS HUMANE AN END AS POSSIBLE TO THE SITUATION.

HE SAID THE OBJECTIVE IN THE EVACUATION OF THE PAST TWO DAYS HAS BEEN TO MOVE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE WITHOUT "CAUSING PANIC."

KISSINGER SAID BY SUNDAY EVENING AS MANY AS 900 AMERICANS AND BETWEEN 5,000 AND 8,000 "HIGH RISK" SOUTH VIETNAMESE REMAINED IN SAIGON. HE APPARENTLY REFERRED TO SOUTH VIETNAMESE WHOSE LIVES MIGHT BE IN DANGER BECAUSE OF THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH AMERICANS.

UPI 04-29 05:45 PED

UP-132

ADD 2 VIETNAM, WASHINGTON

KISSINGER SAID A TOTAL OF 6,500 PERSONS HAD BEEN EVACUATED IN RECENT HOURS, INCLUDING U.S. AMBASSADOR GRAHAM MARTIN.

"THE EVACUATION CAN BE SAID TO BE COMPLETED," KISSINGER SAID.

KISSINGER SAID FORD AT 11 P.M. EDT MONDAY -- TUESDAY MORNING SAIGON TIME -- ORDERED THE EVACUATION OF ALL AMERICANS FROM THEIR TWO LOCATIONS NEAR THE AIRPORT AND AT THE EMBASSY DOWNTOWN.

KISSINGER SAID THE TWO-WEEK EVACUATION PROCESS HAD COST FOUR AMERICAN LIVES -- TWO MARINES AND TWO HELICOPTER PILOTS -- AND HAD BROUGHT OUT SOME 55,000 SOUTH VIETNAMESE IN ADDITION TO THE AMERICANS. THE TWO HELICOPTER PILOTS WERE KILLED IN THE FINAL HOURS OF THE EVACUATION, HE SAID.

"I HOPE WE HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO A POLITICAL EVOLUTION THAT MAY SPARE SOUTH VIETNAM SOME OF THE MORE DRASTIC CONSEQUENCES OF THIS CHANGE (OF GOVERNMENTS), BUT THIS REMAINS TO BE SEEN," KISSINGER SAID.

"WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS SHOULD BE A TIME OF RECRIMINATIONS. IT IS A TIME TO HEAL WOUNDS, TO LOOK AT OUR INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS, TO REMEMBER THAT THE PEACE AND PROGRESS ... OF OUR OWN PEOPLE IS CLOSELY TIED TO THE REST OF THE WORLD."

UPI 04-29 05:49 PED

UP-133

ADD 3 VIETNAM, WASHINGTON

KISSINGER WAS ASKED WHETHER THE SO-CALLED DOMINO THEORY WOULD APPLY IN REGARD TO THAILAND AND OTHER NEIGHBORING NATIONS. HE SAID "THERE IS NO QUESTION THE OUTCOME IN INDOCHINA WILL HAVE CONSEQUENCES NOT ONLY IN ASIA BUT IN MANY OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD."

HE SAID THAT TO DENY THE CERTAINTY OF CONSEQUENCES "IS TO MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEAL WITH THEM" AND HE ADDED, "I AM CONVINCED WE CAN DEAL WITH THEM" AND "PROGRESS TOWARD THE PERMANENT PEACE WE HAVE SOUGHT."

KISSINGER SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD WORKED WITH INTERMEDIARIES IN THE LAST STAGES OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN INDOCHINA, ESPECIALLY THE EVACUATION OF SOUTH VIETNAM.

WHILE IT WOULD BE "PREMATURE" TO GO INTO DETAILS, KISSINGER SAID, "WE DEALT WITH HANOI, THE PRG (PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT) AND THROUGH DIFFERENT INTERMEDIARIES."

"IT WAS POSSIBLE TO PUT OUT OUR VIEW AND RECEIVE THEIR RESPONSES," HE SAID.

UPI 04-29 05:51 PED

UP-128

(VIETNAM)

(BY RICHARD E. LERNER)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- PRESIDENT FORD ANNOUNCED TUESDAY THE EMERGENCY EVACUATION OF AMERICANS FROM VIETNAM HAD BEEN COMPLETED SUCCESSFULLY. "CLOSING A CHAPTER" AND ENDING TWO NEARLY DECADES OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THAT WAR-TORN COUNTRY.

"THE LAST HELICOPTERS ARE IN THE AIR," PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SECRETARY RON NESSEN TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE THAT HAD BEEN DELAYED ALMOST FIVE HOURS SO THE END OF THE EVACUATION COULD BE ANNOUNCED.

"THIS CLOSES A CHAPTER IN THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE," FORD'S STATEMENT SAID. "WE MUST NOW CLOSE RANKS, AVOID RECRIMINATIONS, LOOK AHEAD TO NEW GOALS AND WORK TOGETHER ON THE TASK WE FACE."

UPI 04-29 05:31 PED

UP-158

(MARINES)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- SOME 30 U.S. MARINE GUARDS ARE STILL IN THE SAIGON EMBASSY AND HELICOPTERS ARE TRYING TO LIFT THEM OUT IN THE FACE OF SMALL ARMS FIRE IN THE VICINITY, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SAID TUESDAY.

"AT LAST REPORT A COUPLE OF MINUTES AGO (7:25 P.M. EDT) THERE STILL ARE ROUGHLY 30 MARINE SECURITY GUARDS THERE," GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SAID. "HELICOPTERS ARE MOVING IN TO TAKE THEM OUT MOMENTARILY. THERE WAS SOME SMALL ARMS FIRE IN THE VICINITY OF THE EMBASSY."

UPI 04-29 07:34 PED

DECLASSIFIED

(BY NICHOLAS MANILOFF)
WASHINGTON (UPI) -- AT THE REQUEST OF THE WHITE HOUSE, HOUSE
SPEAKER CARL ALBERT TODAY SUSPENDED ACTION ON LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE
\$327 MILLION IN EVACUATION AND HUMANITARIAN AID FOR SOUTH VIETNAM.
THE BILL, WHICH WAS APPROVED BY THE SENATE LAST WEEK, WAS
SCHEDULED FOR A VOTE THIS AFTERNOON BUT ALBERT'S ACTION MEANS IT WILL
NOT COME TO THE FLOOR UNTIL AT LEAST WEDNESDAY.
HOUSE DEMOCRATIC LEADER THOMAS O'NEILL SAID MANY SECTIONS OF THE
BILL HAD BECOME MOOT, WITH THE EVACUATION OF ALL AMERICANS FROM
VIETNAM.
O'NEILL SAID ONLY SIX AMERICANS REMAINED IN SAIGON -- ALL OF THEM
NEWSMEN -- AT THEIR OWN REQUEST.
O'NEILL SAID THE BILL WAS NOT BEING CONSIDERED "BY MUTUAL
AGREEMENT" BETWEEN CONGRESS AND THE WHITE HOUSE. HE SAID SECRETARY OF
STATE HENRY KISSINGER WOULD SEND A LETTER TO CONGRESS LATER TODAY
OUTLINING THE CHANGES THE ADMINISTRATION WANTS IN THE LEGISLATION.
O'NEILL SAID SECTIONS OF THE BILL DEALING WITH PRESIDENTIAL USE OF
AMERICAN TROOPS TO EVACUATE VIETNAMESE SHOULD BE REMOVED AND THAT THE
MONEY TOTAL IN THE BILL SHOULD BE CUT SUBSTANTIALLY.
UPI 04-29 01:37 PM

DECLASSIFIED

(AMERICAN NEWSMEN)

SAIGON (UPI) -- A NUMBER OF AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS TODAY ELECTED TO PASS UP SEATS ON THE U.S. EVACUATION SHUTTLE AND STAY IN SAIGON.

NBC NEWS REPORTED LATE THIS MORNING THAT ONE STAFF REPORTER AND ONE CAMERAMAN "ARE STILL ON THE GROUND" IN SAIGON AND "AS OF NOW THEY'RE PLANNING TO REMAIN".

AN ABC SPOKESMAN SAID ONE OF ITS AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS AND A TWO-MAN IRISH CAMERA CREW WERE "GOING TO STAY" AND COMMUNICATIONS WERE STILL OPEN TO THEM.

A CBS SPOKESMAN SAID ALL ITS AMERICAN STAFFERS WERE BELIEVED TO HAVE JOINED THE EVACUATION AND WORD WAS RECEIVED THAT TWO HAD REACHED OFFSHORE CARRIERS.

THE FOREIGN DESK OF THE WASHINGTON POST SAID IT RECEIVED UNCONFIRMED REORTS THIS MORNING THAT ITS TWO REPORTERS HAD LEFT VIETNAM.

IN LONDON, REUTER NEWS AGENCY SAID IT PULLED OUT THREE STAFFERS BUT OTHERS REMAINED AND NO DECISION HAD BEEN MADE ON WHETHER TO ORDER THEM OUT OF THE COUNTRY.

IN HAMBURG, THE DEUTSCHE PRESSE AGENTUR SAID CORRESPONDENT ECKHART BUDEWIG HAD GONE TO THE AIRPORT AND WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN EVACUATED.

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL TELEVISION NEWS, A NEWSFILM SYNDICATE, ALSO HOPED TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE BESIEGED CAPITAL.

UPI 04-29 01:11 PED

UP-061

(MARINES)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- THE MARINE CORPS ANNOUNCED TODAY THE NAMES OF THE TWO MARINES KILLED IN THE ARTILLERY AND ROCKET ATTACK ON SAIGON AIRPORT MONDAY.

THE MEN WERE IDENTIFIED AS:

-- CPL. CHARLES MCMAHON JR., SON OF CHARLES MCMAHON SR., WOBURN,

MASS..

-- LANCE CPL. DARWIN JUDGE, SON OF H. JUDGE, MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA. THE PAIR WERE AMONG THE 120 MARINES ASSIGNED TO THE SECURITY GUARD DETACHMENT AT THE U.S. EMBASSY IN SAIGON. THEY WERE KILLED LESS THAN 12 HOURS BEFORE THE FINAL EVACUATION OF AMERICANS BEGAN.

UPI 04-29 12:41 PED

UP-122

CORRECTION:

IN SCHLESINGER (UP-119) READ 2ND PGH X X X
SCHLESINGER'S ASSESSMENT ECHOED THAT OF STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ROBERT MCCLOSKEY, WHO SUNDAY BECAME THE FIRST ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL TO DECLARE THE WAR A FAILURE.

UPI 04-29 04:34 PED

P-119

(SCHLESINGER)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- AS THE LAST AMERICANS WERE BEING EVACUATED

FROM VIETNAM TUESDAY, DEFENSE SECRETARY JAMES SCHLESINGER SAID THAT THE LONG U.S. WAR EFFORT HAD "FAILED," BUT HE SAID THE ATTEMPT HAD NOT BEEN WITHOUT PURPOSE.

SCHLESINGER THUS BECAME THE FIRST INCUMBENT OFFICIAL OF ANY ADMINISTRATION TO BOLDLY LABELED THE WAR A FAILURE.

IN A MESSAGE ADDRESSED TO 2.1 MILLION MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES, SCHLESINGER SAID: "IT WILL BE STATED THAT THE WAR ITSELF WAS FUTILE. IN SOME SENSE, SUCH MAY BE SAID OF ANY NATIONAL EFFORT THAT FAILS."

"YET OUR INVOLVEMENT WAS NOT PURPOSELESS. IT WAS INTENDED TO ASSIST A SMALL NATION TO PRESERVE ITS INDEPENDENCE IN THE FACE OF EXTERNAL ATTACK AND TO PROVIDE AT LEAST A REASONABLE CHANCE TO SURVIVE."

"THAT VIETNAM SUCCUMBED TO POWERFUL EXTERNAL FORCES VITIATES NEITHER THE EXPLICIT PURPOSE BEHIND OUR INVOLVEMENT -- NOR THE IMPULSE OF GENEROSITY TOWARD THOSE UNDER ATTACK THAT HAS LONG INFUSED AMERICAN POLICY," SCHLESINGER SAID.

THE DEFENSE SECRETARY HEAPED PRAISE ON THE MEN IN UNIFORM. "UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES MORE DIFFICULT THAN EVER BEFORE FACED BY OUR MILITARY SERVICES, YOU ACCOMPLISHED THE MISSION ASSIGNED TO YOU BY HIGHER AUTHORITY," HE SAID. "I SALUTE YOU FOR IT."

UPI 04-29 04:43 PED

UP-045

ADD 1 EVACUATE, WASHINGTON (UP-016)

LAITIN SAID ONE MARINE HELICOPTER WAS HIT BY GROUND FIRE BUT WAS ABLE TO CONTINUE FLYING TO AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER OFF SHORE. THE DAMAGE WAS APPARENTLY MINOR BECAUSE THE PILOT RADIOED THAT HE WAS SAFE AND STILL UNDER WAY.

BY MIDMORNING, LAITIN SAID, MORE THAN 4,500 PERSONS HAD BEEN EVACUATED SO FAR TODAY.

LAITIN ALSO REVEALED THAT THE EVACUATION BEGAN AN HOUR LATE DUE TO A MYSTERIOUS AND STILL UNEXPLAINED MESSAGE.

LAITIN SAID THE FIRST HELICOPTERS WERE DUE TO LAND IN SAIGON AT 2:05 A.M. EDT BUT ALL OF THEM TURNED BACK SHORTLY BEFORE REACHING THE AIRPORT, APPARENTLY BECAUSE THEY RECEIVED A SIGNAL ORDERING THEM NOT TO LAND UNTIL 3 A.M.

"NOBODY SEEMS TO KNOW WHO GAVE THE ORDER OR WHY," LAITIN SAID, "AND WE ARE STILL TRYING TO CHECK INTO THIS."

IN THE ONLY OTHER INCIDENT REPORTED SO FAR BY THE PENTAGON, AN A7 ATTACK PLANE THAT HAD JUST TAKEN OFF FROM THE CARRIER ENTERPRISE EXPERIENCED A MALFUNCTION. THE PILOT EJECTED NEAR THE SHIP AND WAS RESCUED WITHOUT SERIOUS INJURY.

UPI 04-29 11:37 AED

UP-043

CORRESPONDENTS:

A NEWS BRIEFING ON THE VIETNAMESE EVACUATION WILL BE HELD IN ROOM 450, OLD EOB RATHER THAN THE WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING ROOM. IT WILL BEGIN AT 1 P.M. AT THE EARLIEST AND BE AVAILABLE FOR LIVE BROADCAST COVERAGE. AT THE START, A STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT FORD WILL BE READ BY PRESS SECRETARY NESSEN AND THEN SECRETARY KISSINGER WILL BRIEF AND ANSWER QUESTIONS. THOSE HOLDING PRESS CREDENTIALS FROM THE PENTAGON OR STATE DEPARTMENT WILL BE ADMITTED WITHOUT HAVING TO CLEAR THROUGH 456-2100. CORRESPONDENTS SHOULD USE THE 17TH ST. ENTRANCE TO THE EOB AND MAY ENTER AFTER 12:15 P.M.

UPI 04-29 11:29 AED

DECLASSIFIED

UP-040

ADD 1 FORD, WASHINGTON (UP-011)

THE PRESIDENT, LOOKING GRIM AFTER A LONG NIGHT OF EMERGENCY CONSULTATIONS AND LITTLE SLEEP, SUMMONED HIS CABINET AND CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS TO SEPARATE MORNING MEETINGS AT THE WHITE HOUSE. HE LATER PROMISED A PUBLIC STATEMENT, FOLLOWED BY A WHITE HOUSE NEWS CONFERENCE BY KISSINGER.

"BOTH MEETINGS WERE CALLED SO THAT THE PRESIDENT COULD GIVE A REPORT ON THE EVACUATION OF AMERICANS FROM SAIGON," A SPOKESMAN SAID.

FORD DECIDED ON THE FINAL EVACUATION LAST NIGHT ON THE ADVICE HE RECEIVED BY RADIO FROM U.S. AMBASSADOR GRAHAM MARTIN IN SAIGON AS COMMUNIST FORCES CLOSED IN ON THAT CITY. HIS DECISION WAS TO PURSUE "OPTION 4" -- THE ULTIMATE CONTINGENCY PLAN TO USE MARINES AND HELICOPTERS WHEN ALL OTHER ROUTES OF EVACUATION WERE GONE.

MANY WHITE HOUSE AIDES WERE AT WORK THROUGH THE NIGHT, KEEPING WATCH ON THE FINAL EMERGENCY EVACUATION. FORD HIMSELF WOKE AT 5:30 A.M. AFTER ONLY FOUR HOURS SLEEP.

THE PRESIDENT APPEARED UNUSUALLY RESERVED WHEN REPORTERS SAW HIM ABOUT 10:30 A.M. AT A MEETING WITH KING HUSSEIN OF JORDAN. BUT HE SAID NOTHING OF VIETNAM.

UPI 04-29 11108 AED

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

CORRECTION:

**IN UP-012, ADD VIETNAM, 3RD PGH READ IT XXX BOARDING SHIPS IN THE
SAIGON RIVER (STED MEKONG RIVER),**

UPI 04-29 10:44 AED

UP-037

ADD VIETNAM, SAIGON

**IN PARIS, THE VIET CONG'S PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT
SAID THERE COULD BE NO FORMAL CEASE-FIRE UNTIL MORE CONDITIONS ARE
MET --WITHDRAWAL OF ALL AMERICANS AND THEIR NAVAL FORCES FROM VIETNAM
WATERS AND DISARMING OF SAIGON'S ARMY AND POLICE.**

**FRENCH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SAID THE NEW CONDITIONS AMOUNTED TO A
VIRTUAL SURRENDER DEMAND.**

UPI 04-29 10:50 AED

DECLASSIFIED

UP-032

ADD VIETNAM, SAIGON

THE AMERICAN EVACUATION WAS PRECEDED BY A HEAVY VIET CONG ROCKET ATTACK ON TAN SON NHUT AIRPORT WHICH KILLED TWO U.S. MARINE GUARDS, THE FIRST AMERICANS TO DIE IN VIETNAM IN 16 MONTHS, AND SHOT DOWN FOUR WARPLANES WITHIN SIGHT OF THE CAPITAL.

THE COMMUNISTS PULLED BACK LATER AND THERE WAS NO KNOWN ATTEMPT BY THEM TO HALT THE U.S. EVACUATION. NORTH VIETNAM AND THE VIET CONG HAD PROMISED NOT TO "INTERFERE" WITH AN AMERICAN WITHDRAWAL, AND APPARENTLY MADE GOOD ON THEIR WORD.

VICE PRESIDENT HUYEN, SPEAKING ON SAIGON RADIO, SAID THE MINH GOVERNMENT HAD AGREED TO MEET THE TWO DEMANDS OF THE VIET CONG FOR TALKS: U.S. WITHDRAWAL AND ABOLITION OF THE SAIGON "WAR MACHINE".

POLITICAL SOURCES SAID SAIGON HAD AGREED, IN PRINCIPLE, TO DISARM THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE ARMY EXCEPT FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SECURITY FORCES, PRESUMABLY MILITARY POLICE.

GEN. VINH LOC, THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT GENERAL STAFF, TOLD TROOPS IN A SAIGON RADIO ADDRESS TO OBEY ORDERS "AND DON'T RUN AWAY LIKE RATS". LOC, ONE OF THE FEW REMAINING GENERALS IN SOUTH VIETNAM, TOOK OVER THE HIGH COMMAND AFTER THE HASTY DEPARTURE OF FORMER JGS CHAIRMAN GEN. CAO VAN VIEN ON MONDAY.

THE DEFENSES OF WHAT WAS LEFT OF SOUTH VIETNAM CONTINUED TO CRUMBLE. BIEN HOA WAS ABANDONED TO THE COMMUNISTS EARLY TODAY. HOWEVER THERE WAS STILL NO SIGN OF A COMMUNIST ATTACK ON SAIGON ITSELF.

FEW DETAILS WERE AVAILABLE ON FIGHTING. MANY MILITARY OFFICERS HAD FLED, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE AT LEAST 1965, THERE WAS NO WAR COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE SAIGON COMMAND.

UPI 04-29 10:41 AED

DECLASSIFIED

UP-013

(STATEMENT TEXT)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- OFFICIAL TEXT OF A JOINT STATEMENT ON THE EVACUATION OF AMERICAN CITIZENS FROM SAIGON, ISSUED THIS MORNING BY THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND DEFENSE:

THE PRESIDENT HAS ORDERED THE EVACUATION OF THE REMAINING AMERICANS FROM VIETNAM. THE MILITARY SITUATION AROUND SAIGON, PARTICULARLY AROUND THE AIRPORT, HAS DETERIORATED TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT THIS MEASURE HAS BECOME NECESSARY TO INSURE THEIR SAFETY.

THIS OPERATION IS BEING CARRIED OUT BY U.S. MILITARY HELICOPTERS AND IS BEING PROTECTED BY A SECURITY FORCE OF U.S. MARINES AND TACTICAL AIRCRAFT. FORCE WILL NOT BE USED UNLESS ESSENTIAL TO PROTECT THE LIVES OF THOSE INVOLVED.

THE EVACUEES WILL BE TAKEN TEMPORARILY TO CARRIERS OFFSHORE BEFORE BEING MOVED ONWARD TO THE U.S.

WE DO NOT HAVE PRECISE FIGURES ON THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS INVOLVED, BUT IT SHOULD BE ABOUT 800 TO 900.

UPI 04-29 09:14 AED

DECLASSIFIED

UP-017

(VIET BRIEFS)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- TWO SOUTH VIETNAMESE EMBASSY OFFICIALS STOLE AND CASHED A \$250,000 EMBASSY CHECK BEFORE DISAPPEARING, THE WASHINGTON POST REPORTED TODAY.

THE POST SAID AN FBI SPOKESMAN TOLD IT THE TWO UNNAMED OFFICIALS CASHED THE BLANK CHECK, SIGNED BY EMBASSY SUPERIORS, ON APRIL 18 AT THE MADISON NATIONAL BANK IN WASHINGTON, WHICH IS IN THE SAME BUILDING AS THE EMBASSY'S OVERSEAS PROCUREMENT OFFICE.

THE FBI WAS UNABLE TO CONFIRM THE POST REPORT THIS MORNING.

THE STORY SAID THE OFFICIALS, WHO WORKED IN THE PROCUREMENT OFFICE, MADE OUT THE CHECK TO THEMSELVES FOR \$250,000 AND GOT THE MONEY MOSTLY IN \$20 BILLS THEY PUT INTO AN ATTACHE CASE.

-0-

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- THE PENTAGON CONFIRMED LAST NIGHT TWO MARINES HAD BEEN KILLED AT TON SON HUT AIRPORT -- THE FOURTH AND FIFTH SERVICEMEN TO DIE IN VIETNAM SINCE THE JAN. 27, 1973, CEASE-FIRE.

THEIR IDENTITIES WERE NOT RELEASED PENDING NOTIFICATION OF THEIR FAMILIES.

THERE ARE CURRENTLY 154 AMERICAN SERVICEMEN IN VIETNAM; 120 ARE MARINES GUARDING U.S. GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.

-0-

COLUMBUS (UPI) -- SEN. GEORGE MCGOVERN, D-S.D., SAID LAST NIGHT THE DEATH OF TWO AMERICAN MARINES IN SAIGON DEEPENED HIS CONVICTION THE UNITED STATES SHOULD HAVE WITHDRAWN FROM VIETNAM EARLIER THIS MONTH.

"IT MAKES ME FEEL EVEN MORE STRONGLY THAT WE SHOULD HAVE PULLED OUT OF THERE TWO WEEKS AGO," SAID MCGOVERN. "WHAT ARE WE DOING WITH 1,000 AMERICANS IN THERE NOW ANYWAY?"

MCGOVERN TOLD AN OHIO DOMINICAN COLLEGE AUDIENCE HE DOES NOT THINK U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM VIETNAM WILL MEAN "A WEAKENING OF OUR CREDIBILITY" THROUGHOUT THE FREE WORLD.

-0-

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- THE POSTAL SERVICE YESTERDAY SUSPENDED DELIVERY OF ALL CIVILIAN MAIL TO SOUTH VIETNAM BECAUSE COMMERCIAL TRANSPORTATION HAS BEEN HALTED.

MAIL ADDRESSED TO SOUTH VIETNAM WILL BE RETURNED TO SENDERS, WHO CAN GET POSTAGE REFUNDS AT ANY POST OFFICE. MAIL WITHOUT RETURN ADDRESS WILL BE SENT TO THE DEAD LETTER OFFICE.

-0-

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE YESTERDAY APPROVED THE ENTRY OF 2,000 ADDITIONAL VIETNAMESE ORPHANS INTO THE UNITED STATES.

ATTORNEY GENERAL EDWARD LEVI, WHO HAS THE "PAROLE" AUTHORITY TO ALLOW THEIR ENTRY INTO THE COUNTRY, SOUGHT THE COMMITTEE'S APPROVAL AS A CONGRESSIONAL COURTESY.

THE ORPHANS ARE TO COME FROM AMERICAN-OPERATED ORPHANAGES IN SOUTH VIETNAM WHICH ARE OPERATED BY PRIVATE AND CHURCH RELATED ORGANIZATIONS.

UPI 04-29 09:40 AED

VF 010

(EVACUATE)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- A PENTAGON SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THE EVACUATION OF THE LAST 200 AMERICANS AT THE U.S. EMBASSY IN SAIGON SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY NOON EDT.

U.S. AMBASSADOR GRAHAM MARTIN RADIOED FROM SAIGON THAT HE ESTIMATED THE EVACUATION WOULD BE COMPLETED BY NOON -- LESS THAN NINE HOURS AFTER IT BEGAN, PENTAGON SPOKESMAN JOSEPH LAITIN SAID.

IN A 7:30 A.M. STATEMENT, LAITIN SAID ABOUT 200 AMERICANS WERE LEFT AMONG A COUPLE OF THOUSAND PERSONS AWAITING EVACUATION AT THE EMBASSY. NO SERIOUS INJURIES HAVE BEEN REPORTED, HE SAID.

LAITIN SAID SEVERAL VIETNAMESE AIR FORCE HELICOPTERS HAD FLOWN OUT TO THE AMERICAN SHIPS WAITING OFFSHORE TO TAKE ABOARD REFUGEES. ABOUT 10 DITCHED NEAR THE AMPHIBIOUS SHIP BLUERIDGE AND ALL KNOWN CREWMEN WERE RESCUED, LAITIN SAID.

ONE HELICOPTER CRASH LANDED ABOARD THE BLUERIDGE, BUT NO SERIOUS INJURIES WERE REPORTED. ANOTHER SEVEN LANDED ON THE AMPHIBIOUS SHIP DENVER, HE SAID.

LAITIN SAID THE EVACUATION BEGAN AT 3:30 A.M. EDT WITH THE CHOPPERS OPERATING FROM TON SON NHUT AIRPORT JUST OUTSIDE THE SAIGON CITY LIMITS.

HE SAID THE OPERATION HAD BEGUN BEHIND SCHEDULE BUT WOULD NOT DETAIL WHY BEYOND SAYING THERE WERE "SOME PROBLEMS."

HE SAID U.S. FIGHTER JETS WERE FLYING OVERHEAD TO COVER THE EVACUATION.

AT 5 A.M. EDT, HELICOPTERS BEGAN LIFTING OFG27

81131-1733 149.

THE U.S. EMBASSY AREA IN DOWNTOWN SAIGON.

LAITIN SAID IN THE FIRST TWO HOURS, THERE WAS ONLY ONE REPORTED INSTANCE OF U.S. AIRCRAFT ATTACKING A GROUND TARGET. HE SAID AN F4 FLYING COVER OVER THE EVACUATION WAS FIRED ON BY ANTIAIRCRAFT ARTILLERY. THE PLANE "TOOK COUNTERMEASURE" EITHER BOMBING OR STRAFING THE INSTALLATION, LAITIN SAID.

UPI 04-29 09:32 AFD

VP-012

ADD VIETNAM, SAIGON (VP-009)

ACCORDING TO SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, THE SAIGON GAMBLE TO ORDER ALL OFFICIAL AMERICANS OUT OF VIETNAM TODAY PAID OFF WITH THE AGREEMENT BY THE VIET CONG TO TALK PEACE.

SOUTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS WERE REPORTED FLEEING THE CAPITAL AREA AND PLANE AFTER PLANE FLEW OFFICERS AND THEIR FAMILIES TO TAIPEI, TO SINGAPORE, TO THAILAND, TO THE PHILIPPINES.

SOUTH VIETNAMESE NAVY SAILORS BEGAN BOARDING SHIPS IN THE MEKONG RIVER TO FLEE THE BATTLE ZONE. AT ONE POINT THEY OPENED FIRE ON SOUTH VIETNAMESE CIVILIANS ATTEMPTING TO JOIN THEM.

FRIGHTENED SOUTH VIETNAMESE PUSHED AND SHOVED SOME AMERICANS OFF OF BUSES SENT TO TAKE THEM TO TAN SON NHUT. SOUTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS OPENED FIRE ON THE BUSES BUT NO INJURIES WERE REPORTED.

FIRES AROUND SAIGON LIT THE NIGHT SKY AS THE HUGE AMERICAN HELICOPTERS, PROTECTED BY NAVY F4 PHANTOMS AND MARINE COBRA HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS, CONTINUED THE EVACUATION.

THERE WAS NO WORD AT NIGHTFALL HOW MANY AMERICANS AND OTHER EVACUEES REMAINED TO BE TAKEN OUT, BUT THERE WAS NO LETUP IN THE HELICOPTER SHUTTLES WHICH BEGAN AT 3:30 P.M. (3:30 A.M. EDT).

THE HELICOPTERS CARRIED THE EVACUEES TO AN ARMADA OF MORE THAN 50 7TH FLEET WARSHIPS OFF THE VIETNAM COAST.

UPI 04-29 09:11 AED

UP-011

(FORD)

(BY RICHARD E. LERNER)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- PRESIDENT FORD TODAY ORDERED MARINES TO EVACUATE THE LAST AMERICANS FROM VIETNAM 14 YEARS AFTER THE UNITED STATES FIRST SENT TROOPS INTO THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATION.

"FORCE WILL NOT BE USED UNLESS ESSENTIAL TO PROTECT THE LIVES OF THOSE INVOLVED," AN EARLY MORNING WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT SAID.

FORD MET WITH THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL IN AN EMERGENCY SESSION LAST NIGHT. AFTER ORDERING THE EVACUATION, THE PRESIDENT WENT TO BED AT 1:30 A.M., ONLY TO WAKE ABOUT FOUR HOURS LATER TO FACE THE FINAL DAY OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY RON NESSEN SAID THERE WOULD NO FURTHER WHITE HOUSE STATEMENTS UNTIL ABOUT 10 A.M. EDT. THE NEXT ANNOUNCEMENT WAS EXPECTED TO SAY THAT VIRTUALLY ALL AMERICANS HAD BEEN EVACUATED.

AT 7:30 A.M., PENTAGON SPOKESMAN JOSEPH LAITIN SAID THERE WERE ABOUT 200 AMERICANS LEFT IN SAIGON AND THEY WERE EXPECTED TO BE OUT BY NOON EDT.

NESSEN SAID FORD CONFERRED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER EARLY THIS MORNING AND WAS BROUGHT UP TO DATE ON THE SITUATION IN SAIGON.

NESSEN SAID THE PRESIDENT TOLD HIM HE "FEELS THE OPERATION IS GOING SMOOTHLY BUT SLOWLY."

NESSEN DID NOT ELABORATE ON FORD'S COMMENT BUT POINTED OUT THAT THE OPERATION WAS BEING CARRIED OUT AT NIGHT AND IN A RELATIVELY SMALL AREA.

THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 900 AMERICANS STILL IN VIETNAM WHEN FORD ORDERED MARINES, PLANES AND HELICOPTERS TO BRING THEM OUT. NESSEN SAID AS FAR AS HE KNEW GRAHAM MARTIN, U.S. AMBASSADOR TO SOUTH VIETNAM, WAS AMONG THE LAST REMAINING AMERICANS IN SAIGON.

ABOUT 30 REPORTERS, PHOTOGRAPHERS AND CAMERAMEN MANNED THE WHITE HOUSE NEWS ROOM IN AN UNUSUAL ALL-NIGHT SESSION.

LAITIN SAID HELICOPTERS OF THE 9TH MARINE AMPHIBIOUS BRIGADE, PROTECTED BY NAVY FIGHTERS, LANDED AT TON SON NHUT AIRPORT, OUTSIDE OF SAIGON, AND BEGAN LOADING THE EVACUEES.

UPI 04-29 09:08 AED

LP-009

(VIETNAM)

SAIGON (UPI) -- THE UNITED STATES PULLED OUT OF SOUTH VIETNAM TODAY AND SAIGON GOVERNMENT SOURCES SAID THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE VIET CONG HAD REACHED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON A CEASE-FIRE.

THE AMERICAN EVACUATION ON ORDERS OF PRESIDENT DUONG VAN MINH SET UP THE SURRENDER OF SAIGON TO THE COMMUNISTS WITHOUT A FIGHT, ENDING 30 YEARS OF WARFARE IN INDOCHINA AND 14 YEARS OF AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT.

U.S. MARINE HELICOPTERS PLUCKED GROUPS OF 20 AND 50 AMERICANS, OTHER FOREIGNERS AND SOME VIETNAMESE FROM LANDING PADS AT TAN SON NHUT AIRBASE AND THE U.S. EMBASSY AS THE EVACUATION CONTINUED INTO THE NIGHT.

TWO SENIOR GOVERNMENT SOURCES SAID NEW VICE PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN HUYEN HAD MET WITH VIET CONG OFFICIALS IN SAIGON TODAY AND AGREED IN PRINCIPLE ON A CEASE-FIRE TO BEGIN WEDNESDAY.

IT APPEARED UNLIKELY THAT THERE WOULD BE HEAVY FIGHTING IN SAIGON AND SOME OF THE FIRST PANIC HAD BEGUN TO SUBSIDE. SPORADIC GUNFIRE IN DOWNTOWN SAIGON AND OCCASIONAL SHELLFIRE ON THE OUTSKIRTS BROKE AN EERIE QUIET AS DUSK SETTLED OVER THIS CAPITAL.

SOME SOUTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS WERE DISGRUNTLED WITH THE AMOUNT OF THEIR SEVERANCE PAY AND HOPED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT BEFORE THE LAST OF THE AMERICANS PULLED OUT. IT WAS FEARED THESE SOLDIERS MIGHT ATTACK AMERICANS WAITING TO LEAVE.

THE COMMUNIST TAKEOVER OF SAIGON ENDED 30 YEARS OF WARFARE THAT BEGAN IN DECEMBER 1946 WHEN THE VIET MINH UNDER LEADERSHIP OF HO CHI MINH REBELLED AGAINST FRENCH RULE AFTER THE END OF WORLD WAR II. THAT STRUGGLE LASTED UNTIL DIEN BIEN PHU FELL ON MAY 7, 1954, AFTER A 55-DAY SIEGE.

UPI 04-29 08:48 AED

N102

DEAD MARINES

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS 4/24/75
ONE WAS BOY OF THE YEAR IN 1971. THE OTHER HAD BEEN AN EAGLE SCOUT.
NOW THEY'RE BOTH DEAD MARINES.

THE TWO, LANCE CPL. DARWIN L. JUDGE OF MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA AND CPL. CHARLES MCMAHON JR. OF WOBURN, MASS., WERE KILLED IN AN ARTILLERY AND ROCKET ATTACK ON TAN SON NHUT AIRPORT MONDAY NEAR SAIGON. THEY WERE AMONG THE LAST AMERICANS KILLED IN THE WAR.

THE TWO MARINES WERE PART OF A SECURITY GUARD DETACHMENT HELPING GUARD THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN SAIGON.

MCMAHON, 22, WAS A NATIVE OF WOBURN AND KNOWN IN THAT BOSTON SUBURB AS A MODEL BOY. THE SON OF MR. AND MRS. CHARLES MCMAHON, HE HAD BEEN ACTIVE IN THE WOBURN BOYS CLUB AND WAS NAMED ITS BOY OF THE YEAR IN 1971, THE YEAR BEFORE HE GRADUATED FROM WOBURN HIGH SCHOOL.

HE WAS HOME RECENTLY ON LEAVE AND ATTENDED THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE BOYS CLUB APRIL 5 WHERE HE WAS SINGLED OUT AS FORMER HOLDER OF THE CLUB'S AWARD. MCMAHON HAD BEEN ON LEAVE AFTER EMBASSY DUTY IN WASHINGTON WITH THE CONSULAR CORPS.

SOME OF HIS LEAVE HE ALSO SPENT AT TENNEY MOUNTAIN IN PLYMOUTH, N.H., A FAVORITE SKIING RESORT.

WHEN HE LEFT WOBURN APRIL 17, HE TOLD FRIENDS HE WAS SCHEDULED FOR DUTY AT THE U.S. EMBASSY IN LIMA, PERU. BUT AT THE LAST MINUTE HIS ORDERS WERE CHANGED AND HE WAS ORDERED TO REPORT TO HAWAII.

FRIENDS SAID THAT WAS THE LAST THEY HEARD FROM HIM. HIS PARENTS WERE NOT AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY.

NEWS THAT JUDGE WAS KILLED SHOCKED HIS FORMER TEACHERS AND FRIENDS IN MARSHALLTOWN.

"I KNEW HIM AS A GOOD STUDENT," SAID ROBERT MCCORMACK, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AT THE HIGH SCHOOL IN THE CENTRAL IOWA COMMUNITY OF 26,000. PEOPLE. "HE WAS VERY CONSCIENTIOUS AND DID A GOOD JOB."

JUDGE ENTERED THE MARINES A YEAR AGO AFTER HE GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL. AFTER BOOT TRAINING IN SAN DIEGO AND SECURITY GUARD SCHOOL AT ARLINGTON, VA., HE WAS ASSIGNED TO VIETNAM.

JUDGE WENT TO VIETNAM LAST MONTH FOR WHAT WAS TO HAVE BEEN ONE-YEAR TOUR OF DUTY.

JUDGE, A FORMER EAGLE SCOUT, "LIKED COURSES WHERE HE WORKED WITH HIS HANDS," SAID MCCORMACK. "HE DID EXTENSIVE WORK IN WOOD WORKING AND MECHANICAL DRAWING."

THE DEAD MARINE WAS "VERY WELL ACCEPTED AMONG THE STUDENTS," MCCORMACK SAID. "I COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING BUT POSITIVE, NO MATTER WHAT THE SITUATION."

LIKE MCMAHON, JUDGE HAD BEEN HOME RECENTLY AND VISITED THE SCHOOL. "HE GAVE ME THE IMPRESSION THAT HE ENJOYED THE SERVICE," SAID THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL.

04-29-75 14:53EDT

ADDITIONAL ROUTING BY MCCC	
C'mc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Acme	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cois	<input type="checkbox"/>
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M	<input type="checkbox"/>
PC	<input type="checkbox"/>
POM	<input type="checkbox"/>
cc	<input type="checkbox"/>

AP 29 Apr 75

POTUZYUW RUEAESAM658 1190245-0000--RUEOFIA.
 DE RUKQOS #5714 1190245
 ZNR 000000 ZZH
 P R 290140Z APR 75
 FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
 TO RUEOFIA/CMC (CODE MSPA-1) PRIORITY
 RUEOFIA/MARSCTYGDBN WASHDC PRIORITY
 INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5886
 RUMJDH/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 5464

BT

UNCLAS SAIGON 5714
 DEPT FOR A/SY/FO
 FOR CMC (CODE MSPA-1) WASHDC
 FOR CO MSGBN WASHDC
 HONG KONG FOR ASST RMO
 E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: APER

SUBJ: REPORT OF DEATH

A. MARCORCASPROCMAN, CHAP 5

B. BND P5000.1B

1. REQ MSGBN NOTIFY ALL APP ADDEES IN REF A & B.

1. IAW REF A FOLL INFO RPT:

A. CPL CHARLES MCMAHON JR. 023 42 16 37/5831 USMC

B. MSG DET AMEMB SAIGON

C. ACDU

D. 0345 29 APR 75 IN SAIGON FROM ARTILLERY/ROCKET ATTACK

E. SAIGON SEVEN DAY ADVENTIST HOSP. REMAINS: WILL ADVISE

F. NOK: TO BE NOTIFIED: MR. CHARLES MCMAHON (F) 51
MONTVALE AVE., WOBURN, MASS. 01801.

G. REQ INFO BE PROVIDED BY MSGBN

H. NO

I. (1) (PEBD) REQ INFO BE PROVIDED BY MSGBN

(2) 414.30

(3) 13.00 SP PY FOR FOREIGN DU.

(4) 65.00 (HFP)

J. NOT PAID

K. REQ INFO BE PROVIDED BY MSGBN

L. CHURCH OF CHRIST

M. NONE

N. NO

3. IAW REF A FOLL INFO RPT:

A. LCPL DARWIN L. JUDGE 479 70 89 99/0341 USMC

B. MSG DET AMEMB SAIGON

C. ACDU

D. 0345 29 APR 75 IN SAIGON FROM AN ARTILLERY/ROCKET ATTACK

E. SAIGON SEVEN DAY ADVENTIST HOSP. REMAINS: WILL ADVISE.

F. NOK TO BE NOTIFIED: MR. H. JUDGE (F) 113 NEW CASTLE RD.,
MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA 50158

G. REQ INFO BE PROVIDED BY MSGBN

H. NO

I. (1) (PEBD) REQ INFO BE PROVIDED BY MSGBN

(2) 398.40

(3) 9.00 SP PY FOR FOREIGN DU

(4) 65.00 (HFP)

J. NOT PAID

K. REQ INFO BE PROVIDED BY MSGBN

L. METHODIST

M. NONE

N. NO

4. RMO SENDS

GDBN

MED.

MS

INT.

MM.

CS

MT.

ACHC

MP.

PA

POC.

FD

1115 NOTIFIED.

American
w/Dietrich

brother in Air Force

Notified 1115 29 Apr
per foreman
w/Dietrich

REVIEWED BY

MARINE CORPS COMMAND CENTER

ACMC

4/5

HAC