



Saigon Surrenders Unconditionally; American Evacuation Completed



Evacuation Route To Ships In South China Sea

SAIGON (AP) — South Vietnam declared unconditional surrender to the Viet Cong Wednesday, ending 30 years of warfare.

President Duong Van "Big" Minh spoke to the nation only hours after an armada of U.S. Marine helicopters had completed an emergency evacuation of nearly 900 Americans and thousands of Vietnamese from the besieged capital.

Minh, a retired general and neutralist, was named president Monday in a desperate and unsuccessful attempt to negotiate a peace with the Communist leaders.

In a five-minute radio address, Minh said "The Republic of Vietnam policy is the policy of peace and reconciliation, aimed at saving the blood of our people. I ask all servicemen to stop firing and stay where you are. I also demand that soldiers of the Provisional Revolutionary Government (Viet Cong) stop firing and stay in place."

"We are here waiting for the Provisional Revolutionary Government, to hand over authority in order to stop useless bloodshed."

Gen. Nguyen Huu Hanh, deputy chief of staff, then went on the air to order all South Vietnamese troops to carry out Minh's orders. "All commanders must be ready to enter into relations with commanders of the Provisional Revolutionary Government to carry out the cease-fire without bloodshed," he said.

As they spoke, Saigon fell silent and shellfire subsided along the northern rim where Viet Cong gunners had been bombarding the airport.

Saigon police and militiamen remained at their posts indicating the Communist-led troops had not yet entered the city.

Some South Vietnamese officers complained that the evacuation of Americans had caused panic in the military, with many top army officers and most of the air force fleeing.

But it had been obvious that the capture would fall. More than a dozen North Vietnamese-Viet Cong divisions were ringing Saigon, which was defended by less than one division of demoralized green troops.

Associated Press special correspondent Peter (See Vietnam, A-8, Col. 4)

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Vietnam Refugees Arriving First U.S. Homes Are Military Posts

BY JAMES FENTON

LA Times Wire-Post News Service

SAIGON — The American evacuation of Saigon ended Wednesday shortly after first light. The crowd that had besieged the U.S. embassy all night then entered and looted the whole place while the Marines were still on the roof.

At 6 a.m. Wednesday a group of Koreans who had been trying to leave Saigon said that the Americans had called for the final evacuation after making sure that there were no Americans left outside the gate.

I went up to the roof of the Hotel Caravelle and watched the dawn breaking over the city. The large American helicopters were still arriving, and figures could be seen boarding them from the embassy roof.

On the nearby Alliance Francaise building a group of Vietnamese waited hopelessly for the choppers to arrive. On Monday, helicopters had been evacuating people from that point.

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Looting Closely Follows Last Of U.S. Evacuation

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building, and a lone mattress could be seen falling from the third floor into the street below.

At just after 7 I walked up to the American embassy and witnessed a scene of pillage. Office equipment was lying in the street all around, and the crowd was milling around, picking up whatever it could.

There were still apparently some Marines on the roof, who were later taken by helicopter while I was in the embassy.

The choppers had been forced, and a crowd was passing in and

out inside, everything of any value was being stripped and removed. I watched a man hacking away at a refrigerator in order to get the spare parts.

Air conditioners were a favorite target. The typewriters were already gone, as were a lot of razor blades, whose wrappings were being hoarded.

Women with shopping baskets were picking up whatever they could lay their hands on. Many of them had babies with them.

On the second floor of the embassy the stairs and stripes lay mangled in the debris. In the back rooms a potting bench had been smashed on the floor.

I saw a small book, the following items: one copy of Sir Robert Thompson's book "Force is not at Hand," one copy of "The Road from War" by Robert Shaplen (there were many to be had), and a book I've always wanted to read, "Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy" by Barrington Moore.

But there were two items I coveted which I thought too large to take. The first was a map of Hanoi, dated 1972. The second was a framed quotation from Lawrence of Arabia, which read "I remember correctly." Better let them do it myself than to do it for myself. For it is their country, their war, and your lives are short.

On the stairs there was a terrible crash as police, soldiers, children and women came up and down. When I finally got to the top there was a car all around, and the last Americans had left.

But there were still people hanging around asking how best to leave. One man came up and asked in a confidential whisper "Do you happen to know the alternative evacuation site?"

Another said, "I am a professor, I am a professor," as if his being a professor would make the helicopters swoop down again out of the sky and pick him up.

One interesting feature of Saigon at the moment is the comparative absence of police. In order to get to the cable-transmission office Wednesday, I hired a Honda driver who was a policeman-in-civilian clothes.

'Copters Collide In Traffic Jam'

ABOARD THE U.S.S. BLUE RIDGE (AP) — Waves of Marine and Air Force helicopters flew 6,400 evacuees Tuesday from Saigon to a 40-vessel armada waiting 17 to 25 miles off the coast of South Vietnam.

The American, Vietnamese and other-foreigners were picked up from an American compound near the Tan Son Nhut airport by helicopters flown in from the U.S. carriers Okinawa, Hancock and Midway.

Vice Air Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky, a former South Vietnamese premier, stepped aboard this command and communications vessel in the center of the fleet. Natty in his khaki safari suit and maroon scarf, he said nothing to reporters.

Good Morning

Today is Wednesday, April 30, 1975
Expected High Today, 80
TUESDAY TEMPERATURES
High 73, Low 56
Other Data Page A2



HARK THE SOUND!—This girl is one of 13,000 Greensboro and Guilford County students who heard the sound of music as played by the North Carolina Symphony at the Coliseum on Tuesday. More pictures on B-1.

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wave of American and Vietnamese air force helicopters descended by surprise on the waiting American vessels.

Aircraft carrying frightened Vietnamese pilots and passengers from Saigon converged on this ship in a race for its single helipad. Seven aircraft appeared in the late morning sky from the westerly direction of Saigon and two of the first to arrive collided on the deck. Later arrivals circled the ship, like gnats fasciated by a candle, awaiting their turn.

As one helicopter was about to take off from the rear of the ship, another Vietnamese pilot brought his aircraft down into its whirling blades. He almost toppled his load of women and children into the sea about 20 miles off Vung Tau.

The blades of the two helicopters clanged together and jagged metal flew across the main deck, sending crewmen diving for the deck.

No one was injured. The landing helicopter teetered for the moment, righted itself and then its door opened and crying women, clutching their children, ran for safety.

The first wave of helicopters from Saigon called the Navy by

attempts to amend the bill and by long speeches by the

One amendment, offered by Rep. Herbert Hyde, D-Ill., combined, was adopted on a voice vote, but it was accepted by the sponsors of the bill and made only editorial changes in the legislation.

The Hyde amendment writes into the bill that insurance companies will use a policyholder's driving record in determining how much will be charged in premiums.

Attempts to amend the bill by Rep. Richard Erwin, D-Forty, and Rep. Robert Jones, D-Forty, failed. The Erwin

amendment would have had the bill expire in two years, a move which would mean the 1977 General Assembly would have to re-enact the measure if it were to remain on the books.

The Jones amendment ended up, tabled after sponsors of the bill said it would effectively neutralize the bill. Jones suggested that the bill direct insurance companies to use a surcharge on premiums for policyholders with three years of driving experience or less.

"That is the same thing we're trying to get rid of," said Rep. Ernest Messer, D-Haywood, chairman of the House Insurance Committee.



Saigon Cathedral Frames U.S. Helicopter

To End Age, Sex Discrimination Insurance Bias Bill Goes To Senate

BY RICK GRAY
Daily News-Post News Service

RALEIGH—Despite heavy weekend lobbying by insurance companies and agents, the North Carolina House Tuesday passed and sent to the Senate a bill eliminating age and sex as factors in auto liability insurance rates.

The final vote on the bill was 74-1, a wider margin than the bill had been given last Thursday when it passed its second reading.

The House spent more than 90 minutes considering the bill despite long debate last week and in the Insurance Committee. Much of the time was taken

There was one other attempt to block passage of the bill before the vote was taken Tuesday.

A similar bill is currently before the Senate Insurance Committee.