



...Bringing History To Life

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United States Leaves Saigon

Lead: In late April 1975, the American war in Vietnam, representing 15 years of sacrifice of both blood and treasure, came to an end.

Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts

Content: FLASH MARTIN TO SCOWCROFT PLAN TO CLOSE MISSION AT ABOUT 0430 APRIL LOCAL TIME. DUE TO NECESSITY TO DESTROY COMMO GEAR,

THIS IS LAST MESSAGE FROM EMBASSY SAIGON.

Ambassador Graham Martin had been at his post for twenty-one months. The nation he so faithfully served had been heavily involved in Vietnam since President Kennedy sent advisors in 1962. Billions of dollars, nearly 60,000 American lives, and hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese casualties later, it had all come down to this, a national government disintegrating, a capital city surrounded by the tanks of North Vietnam, and a U.S. Ambassador destroying his effects in the wee hours of the morning. After dispatching the final message, Martin, a native of Thomasville, North Carolina, left his office and with most of the staff made his way upstairs. They came out of the

stairwell onto the roof at 4:40 A.M. Shortly thereafter a CH-46 helicopter emblazoned with the words "Lady Ace 09" hovered and then sank to the landing pad. The Ambassador, with the embassy flag, boarded the helicopter and the United States left Vietnam as the hard, dark eastern sky began to soften with the dawn of April 30, 1975.

At the University of Richmond School of Professional and Continuing Studies, this is Dan Roberts.

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