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Retreat Loss Put

At \$780 Million

A Pentagon official who surveyed the situation for President Ford said about \$780 million in arms, ammunition and military equipment supplied by the United States was lost or destroyed in the recent retreat of South Vietnamese troops.

The total could go higher when losses of support equipment are calculated, said Erich von Marbod, deputy assistant secretary of defense in the comptroller's office. Von Marbod accompanied Army Gen. Frederick Weyand on his recent mission to Vietnam.

Von Marbod said the \$780 million estimate was based on the price actually paid for tanks, aircraft and other fighting equipment, some purchased years ago at lower prices. Ammunition and fuel were figured at current costs, he said.