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strategists had d the fight for Xuan as one of the major attles of the 30-year Indochina war.)

Hundreds of Americans and their Vietnamese wives and children were flown from the South Vietnamese

capital aboard U.S. Air Force C-141 transports that had brought war materials in from Clark Air Base in the Philippines.

A U.S. official estimated that about 700 persons left Saigon yesterday, including American contractors and their families, leaving fewer than 3000 Americans here. Authorities at Clark, however, put yesterday's figure

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at about 500 persons, still making it the largest single day's evacuation since President Ford ordered non-essential Americans out of Vietnam last Wednesday.

Saigon military official tank-led North a mese for southward Highway South