

APR 30 1975

Mixup in Announcing The Pullout

Washington

The departure of the last Americans from Saigon yesterday took place more than two hours after a statement by President Ford declaring that the evacuation was complete had been read to reporters.

The last Americans were Marines, apparently trapped at the U.S. Embassy for two hours after angry Vietnamese began firing at them.

White House press secretary Ron Nessen explained the mixup:

"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.

United Press