

U.S. Envoy's
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Criticism of
Evacuation

Aboard the Blue Ridge

The U.S. ambassador to the fallen government of South Vietnam said today the evacuation of Saigon would not have been necessary if the United States had kept its promise.

In his first news conference since the evacuation of Americans from Saigon, Ambassador Graham Martin said "If we had done as a nation the things I think we said we should do — if we had kept our commitments — we wouldn't have had to evacuate."

"There was no reason to have had to leave Vietnam this way, if we had done as a nation, I think, the things we had said we would do and were basically doing for the first year after the Paris agreements," Martin said. "But other things happened with which all of us are familiar."

Asked if he felt a sense of shame, Martin declined to answer.

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