

Surrender Saddens Gen. Westmoreland

Nashville, Tenn.

Retired Army General William Westmoreland describes the surrender of South Vietnam as "a sad chapter" in American history.

"I gave four and a half years of my life to what I thought was a noble and worthy cause," the former commander of U.S. forces in South Vietnam said here Wednesday.

"I feel that to allow an ally to go down in defeat is a sad chapter in an otherwise glorious history."

Westmoreland blamed the collapse partly on the U.S. military being controlled by civilian and political decisions. He said he saw it coming when the United States allowed North Vietnam to violate the Paris peace agreement.

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