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1975 - 2025

Then and Now







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1975

1975 - 2025

HOW MUCH DID IT COST?

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- ▶ Dozen eggs
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111th Year Vol. 120 24 Pages Zanesville, Ohio 43701 Wednesday, April 30, 1975

WAR IN VIETNAM ENDS

Ford Announces Evacuation End

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Ford announced Tuesday that helicopters had lifted the last Americans from Saigon in an evacuation that closed nearly two decades of costly U.S. involvement in a distant, unpopular war. The announcement was made in a presidential statement as helicopters were still aloft carrying Ambassador Graham Martin — one of the last to go. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger said that since 1 a.m. Washington time, 1,000 Americans had fled the city.

Ford, in a statement read by press secretary Ron Nessen, and Kissinger, in a somber news conference that was broadcast to this nation, called upon Americans to close ranks, avoid bitterness, look to their common goals and let time heal wounds and history write judgments.

Kissinger also said he feared Saigon may yet fall in a bloody street fight even though the South Vietnamese had yielded to every over control of all of South Vietnam.

President Ford said that the United States pulled out of Vietnam, where it spent 15 years, \$150 billion and more than 58,000 lives trying to stop a communist takeover. Minh told government soldiers to stop fighting.

Left behind were a handful of Americans, including newsmen, who elected to stay. Minh's announcement ended 15 years of fighting in South Vietnam that began when the Japanese invaded Indochina in 1940. After World War II, the fighting continued with Communists battling the French and later the American-backed government of South Vietnam. President Ford said Marine helicopters escorted by F-4 fighters evacuated all the Americans.

The beginning of the end for South Vietnam was the government's decision in mid-March to abandon provinces in the Central Highlands. Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces swept in and gained momentum that quickly carried them across the northern two-thirds of the country.

At the time of the surrender, Communist forces held three-fourths of South Vietnam and 23 of the country's 44 provinces, and had Saigon itself all but surrounded with an

Saigon Surrenders After Americans Flee

AHEAD' WITH OPTION 4, FORD SAID

erse Command Ends Vietnam Era

GAYLORD SHAW
SWALD JOHNSTON
Times Staff Writers

SAIGON—President Ford's white telephone to his defense secretary, Henry A. Kissinger's report, for Graham Martin had mended, Kissinger added, would go ahead with Option 4, and the first three options had been red glare of Communist was time for the forced flight of Americans from Vietnamese capital.

was facing the decision to order into action the helicopters and thousands poised on ships in the Sea.

for a few more minutes, then concluded.

Two words, Mr. Ford set operation Frequent Wind, the military's poetic code name for the closing chapter of America's longest war, a tragic conflict that cost the nation 55,000 of its young men and 150 billion of its dollars, a war that alienated many for a generation and changed perhaps forever this country's foreign policy.

A reconstruction of the hours before the final evacuation.

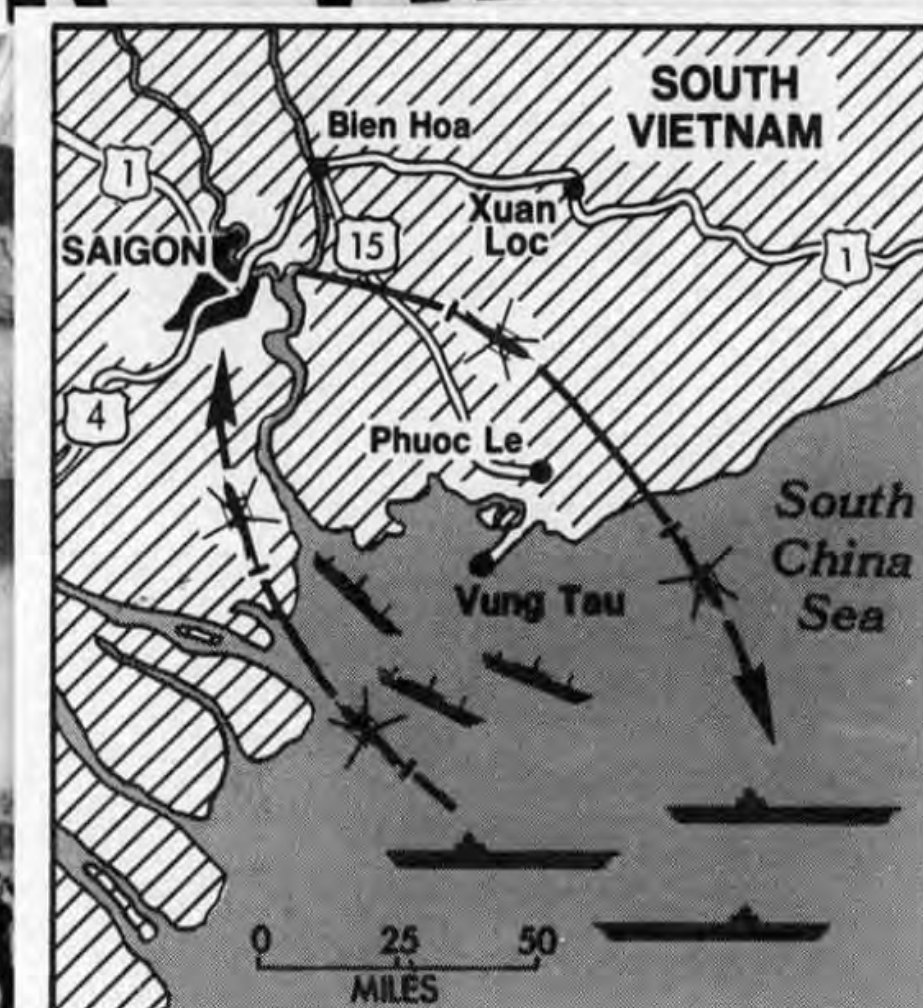
Decision time—President Ford as he conferred during the night with Secretary of State Henry Kissinger on ordering final evacuation.

White House photo by AP Wirephoto.

fore and after that late-night telephone conversation between Mr. Ford and Kissinger reveals a chronology laced with tension and laughter, confusion and precision, worry and relief, pessimism and hope.

Based on interviews with White House staff and Kissinger's memoirs.

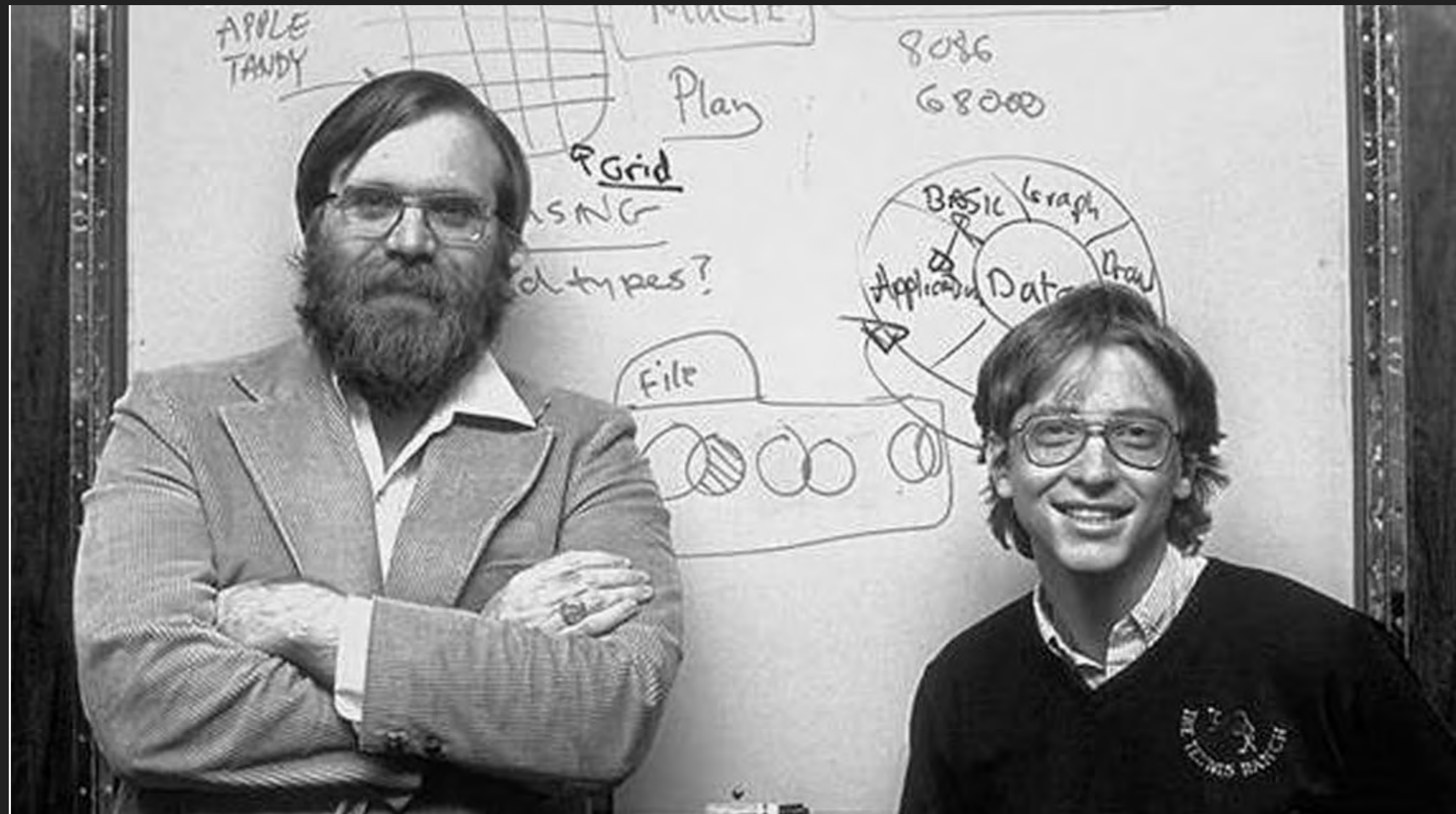
Please Turn to Page 10, Col. 1



EVACUATION—Helicopters from U.S. carriers picked up the last remaining Americans in Saigon. Many South Vietnamese escaped by boat.



ON THE ROAD—South Vietnamese refugees flee Bien Hoa where smoke rises after a shelling attack.



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JAWS



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JACK NICHOLSON

ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST

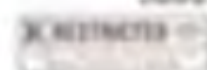


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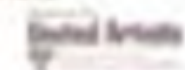
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Bohemian Rhapsody



