

..... PARTING SHOT



AP photo (above); Hubert van Es (inset)

‘They’re Pulling the Plug’

The day before the last U.S. Marine helicopter took off from the roof of the U.S. Embassy in Saigon on the morning of April 30, 1975, the long-time Associated Press Vietnam War correspondents Peter Arnett and George Esper sent this dispatch via telex to AP headquarters in New York:

“They’re pulling the plug. The U.S. Embassy has passed

the word that all Americans will leave today, ending 30 years of American involvement in Vietnam. The Embassy staff and the few military people left had no choice. They had to go.

“Newsmen did have the choice and a handful remained to see the last hours of the country that had flowered just briefly on the international scene.”◆