

U.S. Predicts S. Viet Reds Will Turn to Terrorism

Cease-Fire Only a Breather?

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. military officers predict Communist forces in South Vietnam will revert to guerrilla tactics, terror and assassination after a cease-fire.

Influenced by intelligence reports and past history, these American officers expect a cease-fire at best to be only a pause in the long war between the Vietnamese for control of the South.

"They doubt that an international supervisory organization will be able to prevent this happening, even with a policing force of thousands."

HENRY KISSINGER, who will return to Paris today in hopes of completing a peace agreement with North Vietnamese diplomats, said recently that the United States aims to avoid ending the war "in such a way that it is just a beginning of another round of conflict."

But outgoing Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird sounded pessimistic about a lasting peace in Vietnam when he told his final news conference last Friday:

"I hope and pray there will not be any killing in Vietnam, or Laos, or Cambodia, or in Southeast Asia, but as a practical man I cannot assure

you of that. I can assure you of ... the success of our program to terminate American involvement in the killing and the fighting ..."

"I don't want to get in a position where a year from now you can come back and say, 'well, you promised us all here there would be no more killing or fighting in Southeast Asia.'"

"I AM not promising anybody that, under any kind of agreement, because I know the history of Southeast Asia ... I am talking about every possible kind of agreement," Laird said.

In private, American military officers are even more skeptical. They view the continued presence of North Vietnamese troops in South Vietnam during the formal cease fire as potentially fatal to peace.

Laird told Congress last week that the South Vietnamese "are fully capable of providing for their own country security" against both the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong after receiving more than \$5 billion in U.S. weapons and equipment along with years of training.

American military professionals agree that the South

Vietnamese army and air force are much improved over-all, with some major units rated high.

BUT there is nagging worry about the quality of some South Vietnamese leadership, particularly in certain divisional and regimental commands. And there is no way of telling how the South Vietnamese army will stand up without the support of U.S. air power and American advisers.

While these doubts about the South Vietnamese persist, American military officers say they have no doubts the Communists are preparing for a long-haul military effort, probably involving a switch in tactics from large-unit battles to guerrilla-type warfare.

They have been scanning a series of intelligence reports which have flowed in for months while negotiations have been moving toward a climax.

As recently as last week, these officers learned of orders from the Central Office for South Vietnam, which directs Viet Cong activities, calling for increased efforts to interfere with pacification and to develop underground agents in government-controlled hamlets.

THIS REPORT meshes with earlier intelligence indications from captured documents that the Viet Cong command was passing the word to its men that the cease-fire would be only a period of transition leading to eventual victory for their side.

Only last week, an American Army general familiar with latest intelligence from the field said the Ho Chi Minh supply trail through southern Laos "is full of stuff" coming down from North Vietnam.

Parallel reports have told of North Vietnamese and Viet Cong instructions to lay in caches of ammunition and other supplies before a cease fire.

In recent weeks, the North Vietnamese were said to be moving to set up a logistics command and headquarters in northern Tay Ninh Province from which Saigon and the heavily populated area around the capital could be threatened.

SOUTH Vietnamese troops in recent days appear to have been attempting to checkmate this move by driving North Vietnamese regiments back from the base area.

Military officers doubt about prospects of a cease-fire

recall what happened in South Vietnam after the 1954 Geneva accords which were designed to solve the problem.

According to a U.S. government "white paper" issued in 1961, the Communists sent some of their best-trained units to remote regions of the South during the months after that agreement went into effect.

Agents were told to lead normal lives in hamlets throughout South Vietnam and "to wait until they received orders to carry out party assignments," the document

said.

After focusing on political action promoting discontent with the Saigon government, the white paper said, the Viet Cong then turned to the use of force and terror and gradually intensified their countryside activities.