

Pentagon Said to Expect Viet Coup

Tallahassee, Fla.

Columnist Jack Anderson said last night the Pentagon has secret intelligence reports forecasting an end to the Vietnam cease-fire in a military coup that will topple the Thieu government within a year.

Anderson, addressing Florida State University students, said he will publish the contents of the Joint Chiefs of Staff estimates "pretty soon." He said he has not personally read the two classified documents, but that an unidentified source has informed him of their contents.

"The Joint Chiefs of Staff, in their secret estimates, have declared that they expect a breakdown in the cease-fire and the ultimate Communist take-over of South Vietnam," Anderson said. "If the Joint Chiefs of Staff are correct in their estimate, the North Vietnamese will win."

Anderson, the Pulitzer prize-winning author of the nationally syndicated column "Washington Merry-Go-Round," said that the U.S. delayed the current peace accord three months and renewed bombing of North Vietnam in a final effort to punish the Communists and bolster President Nguyen Van Thieu.

"We've obtained a very tenuous peace — a peace with dishonor — a military setback and a diplomatic debacle," Anderson said. "We could have signed it (the peace accord) October 31; the truce we could have signed October 31 is very little different than the one we signed Saturday."

He said Pentagon estimates last fall said that Thieu would fall within weeks if the U.S. did not give him "massive artillery and air support."

He said that resumption of the bombing in December

was a final effort to strike some blows against the North and "buy another year for President Thieu."

"That was the reason for the three months delay, the only reason," he said.

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