

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICE OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

7 December 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: ONE BOARD AND STAFF  
(Internal ONE Only)

FROM : Chief, Estimates Staff

SUBJECT : Staff Suggestions for Memoranda Topics

Herewith another edition of "Staff Suggestions for Memoranda Topics." Again, this is a compendium of proposals by the Staff Chiefs set down as made. This time we will be able to compare the new list with an old one and with the record of performance. It is hoped that the resultant discussion -- scheduled for 1400 hours 14 December -- will deal not only with the merits of the topics suggested but also with the uses of a quarterly exercise of this type and the old problem of what kind of memoranda we should write, among other things.

I. LA STAFF

1. The Shape of Revolutions to Come in Latin America

Social and economic pressures are continuing to grow in many Latin American countries, but prospects do not seem

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bright for rapid change and reform under present political institutions. The Communist left is neither large nor strong in most of the countries. What are the forces, groups and leaders most likely to undertake revolution in the foreseeable future?

2. The Political Role of the Latin American Military

Most Latin Americans now live under governments headed by military men or recently retired military men. How did this come about? How much do these governments differ, one from another? Generally speaking, what are they aiming to do? How effective is their performance? Are such governments likely to become less -- or still more -- common in the future? What will be the relationship between them and the various revolutionary ideas and forces emerging in the area?



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4. Latin America: The Politics of Development

What have been the political conditions most conducive to economic progress? Are representative governments in Latin America seriously inhibited in the formulation and execution of practical economic policies? How severe a hindrance are the "autonomous" government corporations? Is it politically feasible to replace or reform them? Can military government sustain the degree of backing from various interest groups which would seem necessary for faster rates of economic growth? How much have economic problems to do with the replacement of democratic governments by non-democratic ones? Is it really much easier for a country to stick to representative government if it has lots of oil?

II. AF STAFF

5. Renewed Soviet and Chinese Interest in Africa

An analysis of the ups and (mostly) downs of Soviet and Chinese programs in black Africa over the past several years and

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of their most recent moves, particularly Soviet military aid to Nigeria and Chinese promises to build the Tan-Zam-railway. Are these indicative of new wrinkles on old policies or of significant new departures?

6. The ABC's of US Aid Programs in Africa

We intend to analyze the FY 1967 aid program and the FY 1968 program proposed to Congress last spring. We are interested in classifying the types of assistance that fall under the Aid legislation (e.g., project loans) and the types that do not (e.g., PL-480), and in clarifying such Administration concepts as "countries of concentration," "regional projects," and "multilateral aid." We will make some judgments on the purposes of the US Assistance Program, the actual benefits we derive from it, and the likely consequences of the sharp curtailment of assistance to Africa that apparently is shaping up for the next year or two.

7. Toward Understanding Military Coups in Black Africa

We intend to study the causes and consequences of the spate of military seizures of power in black Africa, which numbered seven in the 16 month period, November 1965 to March 1967. Some of them (Ghana and Nigeria) led to significant political changes; but in 4 or 5 cases, there was no major change in basic orientation

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of domestic and foreign policy. Will these military rulers stay on indefinitely, how widespread will military coups be in the upcoming year, and what are the consequences of the phenomena for the US?

8. The Horn of Africa

Recent developments in the Horn, reflecting in part the outcome of the June Middle East crisis and the closing of the Suez Canal, would indicate that perhaps our May estimate was too gloomy in some conclusions. The formerly politically aroused population of French Somaliland has returned to its usual torpor; the new government of the Somali Republic is making an apparently sincere effort to improve its relations with Kenya and Ethiopia; and the Emperor's security forces are doing rather better than anticipated in combatting the Eritrean insurgency. Do these events indicate a basic trend toward peace in the Horn or will the old tensions inevitably reemerge?

III. WE STAFF

9. Trends and Prospects in Relations between East and West Europe

10. The New Left in Europe

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IV. NE STAFF

11. New Trends in Indian Communism

In 1964, the Communist Party of India split in two. Following the 1967 Indian elections, these parties, although getting slightly fewer total votes than in previous elections, succeeded in joining multiparty governments in four states. Communists have been particularly active in West Bengal and Kerala. In recent months a third Communist Party has appeared; this is farther to the left than either of the others. We propose in this memorandum to examine the prospects for communism in India, to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the several Communist parties. We also propose to discuss the Soviet and other international Communist attitudes toward these parties.

12. Monarchies and Modernization

Some years ago we, and many other Middle Eastern analysts, were inclined to give rather poor odds on the viability of Middle Eastern monarchs and on their capacities for coping with pressures against them. Yet most of them have survived. This paper would look at the situations of the six monarchies -- Morocco, Libya, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Afghanistan -- with a view to

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determining the elements of their success, particularly of any features common to a number of them.

13. Algeria

Boumediene's regime took an uncharacteristically active part in the Arab-Israeli crisis of the past summer. It continues to be among the more radical governments of the region and has problems of a domestic and international nature. This memorandum would examine the internal situation, the possibilities of a change in regime, and the likely nature of a successor. It would also deal with Algeria's problems with its neighbors, particularly Morocco, which fears that Algiers is trying to establish a government in its own image in Rabat.

V. FE STAFF

14. The View from Hanoi

Plans are underway to do a memorandum on possible options facing Hanoi during 1968. January?

15. The War in Laos

25X1  has started a definitive look at this sideshow, from military and political angles. Should be able to break some

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new ground on how much this effort is costing the North Vietnamese --  
January.

16. Chinese Internal Politics

We will strike when the time is ripe.

17. China's Nuclear Strategy

An experimental piece by [ ] currently in  
preparation. Speculative overview of options facing Chinese nuclear  
strategists. Target end of December.

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18. Asian Communism

New subject, broached tentatively. Some interesting  
developments in Communist parties outside of Vietnam and China.  
Perhaps they can be woven together.

VI. SOV STAFF

19. Sino-Soviet Military Relations

Tension along the Sino-Soviet frontier, a big Soviet  
military buildup, Soviet ground forces in Mongolia -- what does  
it all mean? Is it just more and better border security, Moscow's

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prudent reaction to the cultural revolution? Or is something more interesting, perhaps more ominous involved? And what next -- how many strategic missiles along the border? how many troops withdrawn from the European part of the Soviet Union? how, in fact, does the Soviet leadership view the problem of military relations with Mao's China? [redacted] Ready for publication late in January. \$2.50, paperback.

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20. The Collective Leadership in the USSR

How collective and how durable is the present peculiar leadership situation in Moscow? Rumors of big changes are currently making the rounds -- is it true that Kosygin is likely soon to retire? How much has Brezhnev been able to enhance his authority? How stable can a collective be? This paper, by resident Sovietologist [redacted] examines these and other questions with penetrating insight into the strange world of politics in the Kremlin. Ready for publication in mid-January. \$2.95. No discount to jobbers.

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