

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

22 APRIL 1964
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Laos

a. King Savang has again refused to accept Souvanna's resignation. The question of any new government or the status of the old one thus remains unresolved. Souvanna is returning to Vientiane with Phoumi and party.

b. In these nebulous circumstances, General Siho has now moved the bulk of forces loyal to him to the vicinity of Vientiane and says he is determined to set up a new government.

c. [redacted] General Kouprasith, nominal head of the coup group, is allying himself with Phoumi in a joint effort to break Siho's hold. [redacted]

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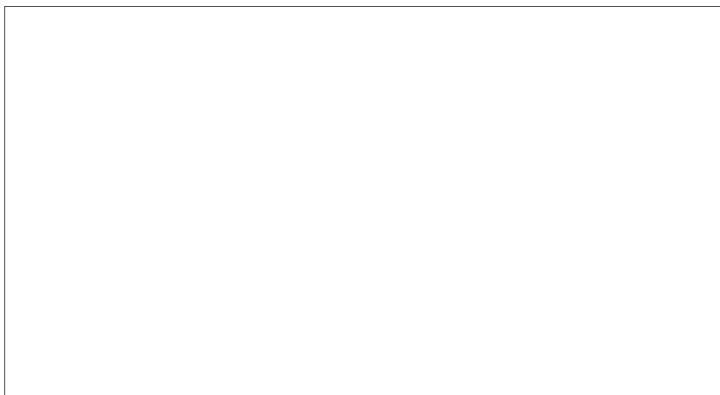
d. Phoumi so far has played a cautious game. In the present delicate situation he seems to be trying to keep a foot in both camps and to be playing for time in hopes of regaining full control over the military.

2. Cuba

a. The Cuban diplomatic and propaganda campaign against US overflights is gathering steam.

b. Castro's elliptical reference to the problem on Sunday has been followed by President Dorticos' more explicit statement on Monday and the publication yesterday of Raul Roa's truculent note to us on the subject.

c. Cuban personnel--both officer and enlisted--are now training at all of the SAM sites. Their proficiency in the use of the SAM system and the other air defense components has increased to the point where we believe they are probably now ready to operate on their own, although at reduced effectiveness.



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3. Zanzibar

a. With Babu away, President Karume has led the Zanzibari Government into an abrupt about-face in its attitude toward the West.

b. Chargé Carlucci has suddenly found Karume most friendly, confident, and enthusiastic.

c. He is now interested in getting the US to sponsor a teacher training program in Zanzibar and, to show he is in earnest, says he wants to send his son here to school.

d. Karume was impressed, we are told, by our calm, prompt response to his request that we pull the Mercury installation out and by the gift of buildings and a generator left behind.

e. He may also have been impressed by the tale of woe over bloc aid recently related to him by visiting Guinean officials.

f. In any event, some of Karume's old party cronies have told us the government has decided to take the heat off the West, to stop demonstrations and press attacks.

(Cont'd)

g. [redacted]

[redacted] an attempt will be made to prevent Babu's return. Babu will not be counted out easily, however [redacted]

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4. Syria

a. Merchants continue their strike in most cities in defiance of the regime's threats of dire reprisals.

b. Most of the population remains apathetic at best. General Hafiz is travelling about trying to recoup some authority and prestige, but so far without conspicuous success.

c. The feeling is growing that his regime has shot its wad.

d. The army generally is apathetic and unreliable, but Hafiz still has the support of some top commanders.

e. This could change overnight, however. [redacted]

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NOTES

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B. South Korea Student unrest persisted yesterday despite strong warnings and police action. President Pak has told us he may have to declare martial law and move more troops into Seoul if the students do not settle down.

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[Redacted]

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D. Warsaw Pact Exercise A large-scale Warsaw Pact exercise is under way in southeastern Europe and southwestern USSR.

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[Redacted]

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E. Communist China [Redacted] at a Chinese Communist military air transport base [Redacted] the Chinese have had to cannibalize half of the transports at the base to keep the other half operating. [Redacted] similar difficulties in other elements of the Chinese Communist Air Force. Most Chinese combat and transport aircraft were procured in the USSR.

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