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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

16 JULY 1964 50X1

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1. Cyprus			5
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2. USSR

- a. The opportunity which Khrushchev handed Brezhnev yester-day to devote full time to party work does not make him heir apparent or even front runner for the Khrushchev mantle.
- b. It does, however, put him on an equal basis in competition with the other chief contender, Nikolay Podgorny.
- c. The naming of Mikoyan to succeed Brezhnev as president will not affect the Armenian's unofficial and largely personal status as senior advisor to Khrushchev and chief troubleshooter abroad.

3. Laos

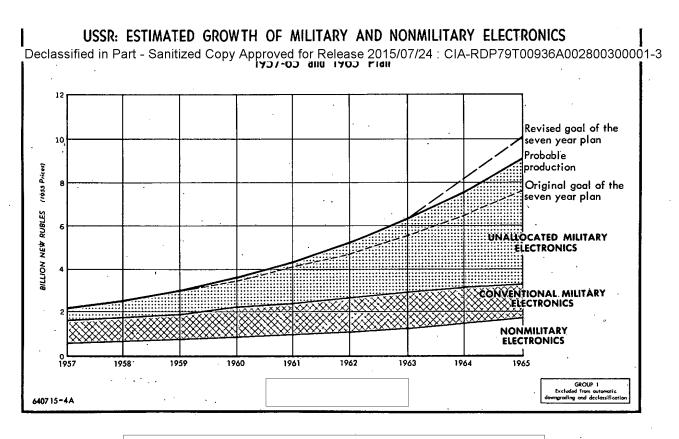
- a. The outline of Operation Triangle, the planned neutralist-rightist push north from Vang Vieng, is by now common barroom gossip in Vientiane.
- b. If the operation has not been hopelessly compromised and if the weather permits, it could get under way this weekend.
- c. The Pathet Lao, poised on the Plaine des Jarres, are aware of the plan and could counter with a move of their own.

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4. South Vietnam

- a. Two more battalion-sized Viet Cong actions on Monday have pushed the total of such actions to a record seven so far this month. This, in fact, is more than in any two-month period since mid-1962.
- b. US officials in Saigon now estimate the Communists' main force strength at 28,000-34,000, as compared to their previous estimate of 23,000-27,000. This is not a sudden increase but represents acceptance of a buildup which has been going on over the past year or so.
- c. There is at least one hopeful sign. Embassy Saigon believes that the peasants, particularly in the crucial delta provinces, may be turning against the Viet Cong, though they are still far from being committed to the government cause.



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NOTES

- A. Congo Following a request from the OAU foreign ministers that Kasavubu leave Tshombé in Leopoldville, it was decided that neither would attend the African summit opening tomorrow in Cairo. Tshombé does seem interested in building a better image among fellow Africans, and yesterday he released left-wing leader Antoine Gizenga.
- B. USSR We still expect to see a significant increase in the production of military electronics equipment over this year and next. Expanded requirements in this field could well be related to the initial deployment of new systems such as antiballistic missiles. early warning, and communications.

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D. Communist China For the first time in eleven years, Peiping has returned to the enormous job of a national census. If our projections are near the mark, the new census should disclose a mid-year population of around 735 million.

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