

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST



12 APR. 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. **Moscow concern over Cuban developments**

A Pravda editorial yesterday on the ouster of Escalante from the Cuban party leadership sought to minimize the significance of Castro's attack on the party's drive for power, but gave a veiled warning against further moves to curb it. Castro's individual position was downgraded by emphasis on collective leadership.

2. **Laos**

a. The government's acting Foreign Minister yesterday bitterly attacked US policy, and described Souvanna's trip to France as tantamount to renouncing his mandate. He charged that the US placed "more confidence in the good will and good faith of Communists than in our determination to defend our liberty and independence." The Boun Oum mission to Southeast Asia to drum up support for Laos starts later this month.

b. "Soviet aid" has provided five mobile tank workshops to Khang Khay. In recent months there have been indications that up to 40 PT-76 tanks have been received by anti-government forces in addition to the 40-50 delivered in December.

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3. Sino-Soviet trade will decline for the third successive year

Preliminary Sino-Soviet trade negotiations--which adjourned 9 March--have usually been followed shortly by highly publicized final negotiations; these have not so far materialized. The delay may have been caused by the Chinese National People's Congress, which after two weeks is still in session and still silent, but we do not rule out a further sharp deterioration in Moscow-Peiping relations.

4. Argentina

a. Ambassador McClintock, reviewing the personalities in the Argentine cabinet and the guarantees of freedom from military pressure which they exacted from the armed forces chiefs before agreeing to accept their posts, is convinced that the Guido cabinet is truly a civilian government, and not in form only.

b. President Betancourt, who seems to be changing his mind on the character of Guido's government, nevertheless plans to stick by his guns on non-recognition.

c. The Argentine Communist Party apparently has decided to shift from inconspicuous maneuver to an open try for leadership of the opposition to Guido and the military. Avoiding a call for violence--which would incur the military's wrath--the party proposes the organization of "thousands of committees" to oppose the government's "reactionary program."

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5. Indian position on
Kashmir dispute

The Indian Foreign Office contends that Pakistan's initiative in raising the issue in the UN bars any talks for now.

The dispute is scheduled for the Security Council later this month. The Pakistanis, isolated and frustrated, are also complaining about our position.

NOTES

- A. We have press reports that the Soviets in Geneva today denounced the US-UK statement on nuclear testing as an ultimatum which threatens "a new wave in the nuclear armaments race."
- B. The Ba'ath party in Iraq, viewing Qasim's troubles with the Kurds as weakening his position, [REDACTED] 50X1
[REDACTED] 50X1
- C. An announcement is expected from Paris Sunday that Debre will be replaced by Georges Pompidou; De Gaulle has apparently decided not to call immediate elections.
- D. The Dutch have again deferred decision on the Bunker proposals; no action is expected before tomorrow. 50X1
- E. [REDACTED] Soviet satellites launched [REDACTED] 50X1
- F. A serious military incident on the Ethiopian-Somali border is increasingly likely. Haile Selassie, who has been restraining his military leaders, has given the army permission to retaliate if there is "direct Somali provocation."
- G. The Syrian military leaders apparently have reached an impasse on how to run the country. They want to legalize their seizure of power, but are unwilling to make the necessary political compromises to bring about a stable regime.

- H. Initial Berlin press reaction interprets General Clay's departure as indicating a lessening of danger.
- I. Alexander Bustamante, whose Jamaica Labour Party won the election Tuesday has declared that after independence in August Jamaica will not be neutral and will seek a defense agreement with the US.

LATE ITEM

Press reports state that an Argentine cabinet meeting scheduled for last night was cancelled in an atmosphere of renewed crisis. Guido is reported meeting with armed forces representatives. The labor unions have united in opposition to austere economic moves announced Tuesday.

WATCH COMMITTEE CONCLUSIONS--10 April 1962

On the basis of findings by its Watch Committee, the United States Intelligence Board concludes that:

No Sino-Soviet Bloc country intends deliberately to initiate direct military action in the immediate future.

BERLIN: The Communists, with prospects of further negotiations, are now avoiding major harassments against Western access to Berlin. Bloc military activity in general continues to suggest that the Soviets do not expect a military confrontation in the near future.

LAOS: Indications are that, for the immediate future, military activity will be limited to local actions, with both the Communists and the government forces attempting to maintain and strengthen their military position, although there are some indications that the Communists may be placing greater emphasis on a buildup than is the RLG. Nevertheless, a local action of the "mopping up" variety endorsed by Souphannouvong could inadvertently develop into a major operation.

SOUTH VIETNAM: The situation is basically unchanged from that of last week. There has been no essential change in the pattern of Viet Cong and government military operations.

INDONESIA: Further small-scale clashes with the Dutch are likely

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DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE