

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

16 APR. 1962

~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. France

We believe that De Gaulle considers last week's referendum as the end of the beginning of his program, and that he will now give attention to domestic reform, modernization of the armed forces and European integration. The process is likely to be marked by a further concentration of power in the office of the presidency. Gavin has cautioned against any expectation of an early improvement in our relations. Pompidou's cabinet is similar to Debré's; all key ministers have been retained.

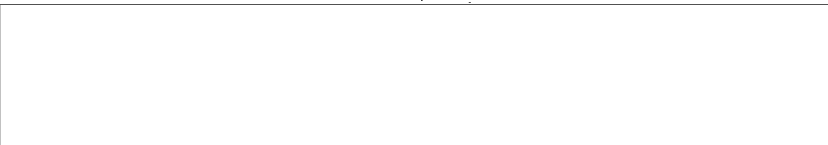
2. Argentina

a. The military seem to be uniting behind Guido and the Chamber of Deputies is expected to endorse Senate action extending his term of office until 1964. Guido, however, is by no means out of the woods as he must still face up to the problem of Peronism. The military are counting on Guido to nullify the Peronist's electoral victories by presidential decree. This could precipitate another donneybrook.

3. Algeria

a. The PAG--now meeting in Tunis-- may be in for another shake up with Ben Bella emerging as the new man in charge.

b. The PAG is growing impatient with French efforts to suppress the OAS, and has implied that it may soon take matters into its own hands. 50X1



4. Laos

Phoumi has now tossed up the idea of a government under the King in which the three princes would serve as deputy prime ministers, with "control" of the defense and interior ministries turned over to Souvanna. While this represents some progress we doubt that Souvanna and Souphannouvong would accept such a proposal, or that Phoumi can sell it to the king.

5. Syria

President Qudsi's reinstatement will probably provide a temporary respite from political upheavals. Our Damascus embassy does not expect the "transitional" government, now being formed, to spring any surprises in the realm of domestic policies. However, nobody has a clear idea yet on how the ball will bounce on relations with Egypt.

6. Communist-held Americans

a. In response to an informal Chinese Communist query as to what might be an appropriate gesture of respect to Dag Hammarskjold, the Swedes are suggesting that the Chinese might release the four remaining Americans prisoners in China, perhaps on Hammarskjold's birthday (29 July).

b. Robert Mann, detained in East Germany since last February, is to go on trial next month.

NOTES

- A. The Dutch reply to the Bunker formula is due for delivery today or tomorrow.
- B. Adoula and Tshombé met on Saturday; we have no word yet on how it went. Meanwhile, Adoula appears to be developing a new feud, this time with army commander Mobutu.
- C. Brazilian army units have setup road blocks on all roads leading into the interior of five northern states to check a suspected flow of arms as well as to clamp down on Peasant League activity.
- D. Anti-government sentiment still runs deep in Guatemala, and the present calm will probably not last long.
- E. Japan and South Korea are about as far apart as ever as the latest effort to compose their differences has ended in mutual recriminations.
- F. On Thursday two members of the United States Intelligence Board questioned the validity of our judgment--stated in various intelligence publications [redacted] 50X1 that the two Soviet satellites launched from Kapustin Yar were not intended for photographic reconnaissance. As a result, the Board's Guided Missile and Astronautics Intelligence Committee was convened on Friday to reexamine the evidence. The Committee agreed without dissent that "we do not believe that either of these vehicles has been conducting photographic reconnaissance." [redacted] 50X1

LATE NOTE

The Chinese Communist congress has ended. We anticipate a statement concerning its proceedings later today.

DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST

- I.
- II.
- III.
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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE