

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

24 APR. 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Soviet Space activity

a. An earth satellite, Sputnik XV, was launched [redacted] from [redacted] Kapustin Yar and is in orbit. Preliminary information indicates it is similar to Sputniks XIII and XIV which went up earlier this year [redacted]

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b. A test vehicle--probably a Category C ICBM--was successfully launched from Tyuratam yesterday, the second success in three tries in the last six days.

2. Argentina

Guido has withdrawn his legislative proposals for modifying the law on presidential succession and announced that elections for a new president and vice president will be held within 90 days. This action ends the extraordinary session of congress, but only postpones the next moment of crisis until Thursday when congress will reconvene in regular session. At that time, congress must decide whether or not Peronists who won election last month will be permitted to take their seats.

3. Algeria

The struggle for leadership in the post-independence era is shaping up as a fight between the political and military wings of the nationalist movement. The most striking manifestation of this in recent weeks has been the aggressive efforts of Vice Premier Ben Bella to entice the military into his corner.

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4. Laos

a. During Ambassador Brown's audience with King Savang yesterday (at which time Savang received but did not read the President's letter), the King delivered himself of some unpromising comments on the political situation. He said that the tragedy of Laos is that the country has so few competent people and these few would not cooperate in forming a government of national union. He was as equivocal as ever about the possibility of his assuming personal control of his government.

b. Sarit, when informed of the outline of the President's message, took the line that no one should expect satisfactory results from diplomatic efforts to bring the Laotian government around. The Lao, he said, seem to have "gone wild."

5. Indonesia

a. Indonesian impatience with Dutch foot-dragging on West New Guinea is waxing again and may be given stem-winding expression when Sukarno addresses the nation on Thursday. The speech may also provide some tip off on Sukarno's attitude to the recommendation

[redacted] to break off negotiations with the Netherlands and launch large-scale infiltration operations against West New Guinea.

b. Foreign Minister Subandrio told Ambassador Jones yesterday that the assurances he had received that Pope's family would avoid publicity would greatly strengthen his position in urging Sukarno to grant his release.

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NOTES

- A. Adoula, [redacted] plans a major shakeup of his cabinet. 50X1.1
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- B. [redacted] South Korea [redacted] undercurrent of anti-government sentiment developing among middle grade army officers. 50X1
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- C. Niger is under pressure to become the first member of the francophile "Brazzaville Group" to establish diplomatic relations with the bloc. To this end, the USSR and Poland are said to be dangling substantial loans for economic development before President Diiori who may find it hard to resist pressure from his leftist advisers.
- D. Prince Sihanouk will probably interpret the publicity given in South Vietnam to the reported massacre of Vietnamese villagers by Cambodian raiders as a deliberate breach of a tacit understanding that such incidents were to be treated on a confidential, government-to-government basis. Saigon-Phnom Penh relations, which have been improving lately, are therefore bound to be thrown for a loss.

DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE