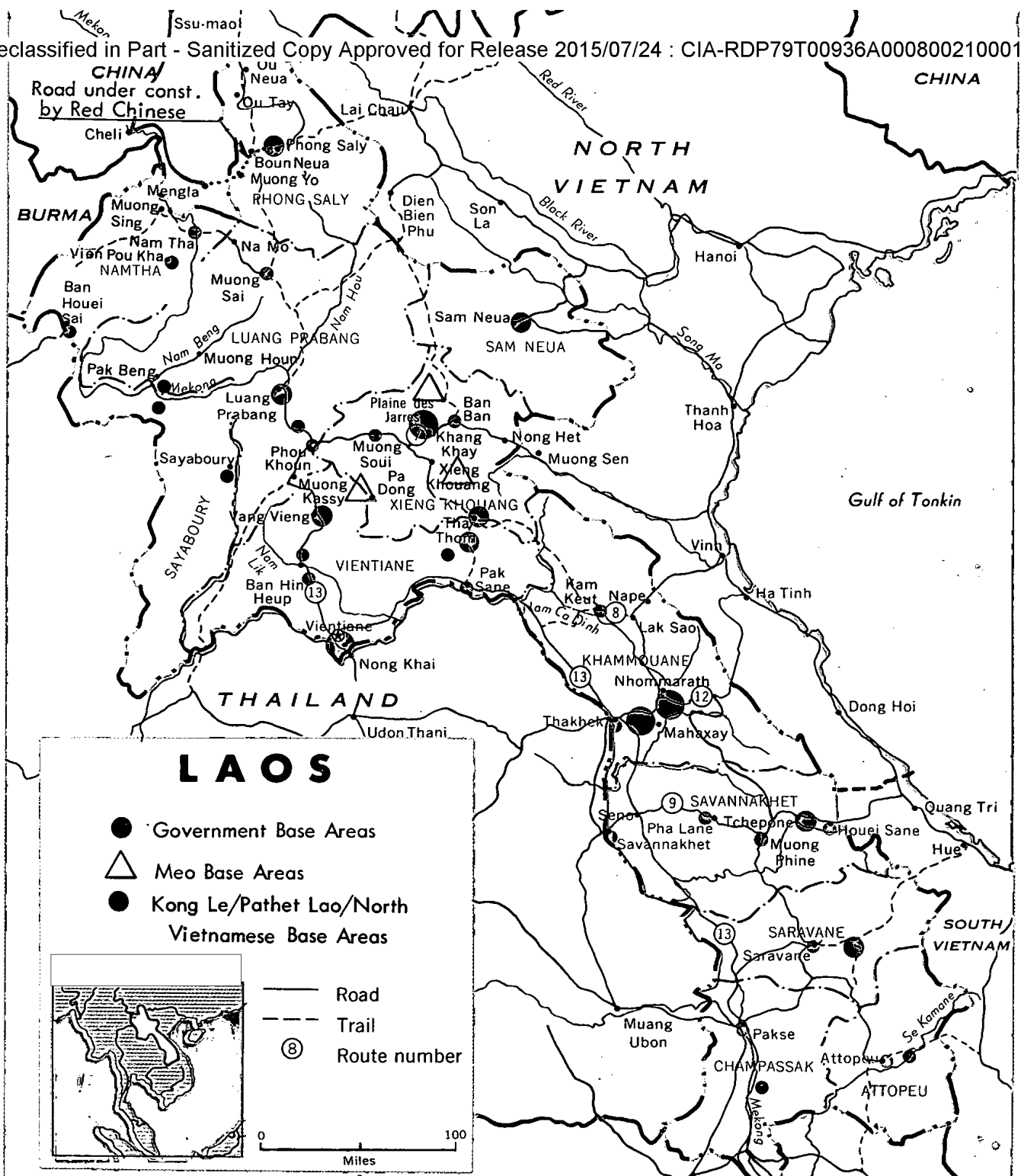


EXTRA

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

50X1

5 JUNE 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~



50X1

1. Laos

a. Following his audience with the King yesterday, Souvanna announced that his mandate remained valid and called for a meeting of the three princes in the Plaine des Jarres on Thursday.

b. Phoumi, in Vientiane, has categorically assured Ambassador Brown that he would attend the meeting. He also promised not to block the formation of a coalition government, provided Souvanna's side agreed to joint control of the Defense and Interior Ministries and to the freezing of all military forces in their present positions until arrangements have been made for their integration.

c. We continue to entertain reservations of Phoumi's sincerity/ [redacted]

50X1

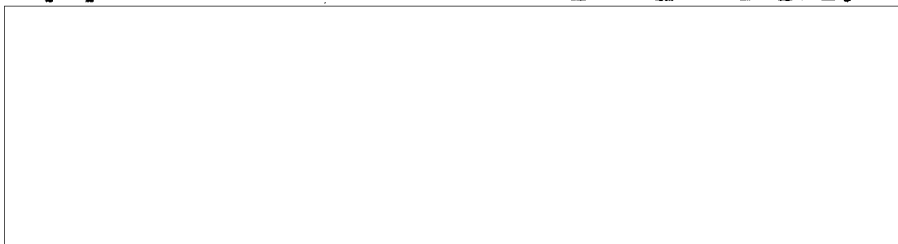
[redacted] Phoumi was in town on Sunday to see Sarit, full of pessimism about the prospects for a coalition government and saying that partition was his ultimate fallback position. The Thai so far are being uncommunicative as to Sarit's reaction.

d. We have another report which tends to confirm the movement of several hundred truckloads of Viet Minh troops into Khang Khay from North Vietnam two weeks ago, which we noted tentatively on Friday. We also have good evidence showing that Hanoi has recently stepped up its logistic support operations via Route 7 into Laos. One unit operating along this route was ordered to bring its handling capability up to 700 tons a month. [redacted]

50X1

(cont'd)

e. Approximately 800 Royal troops, plus 10 American advisers, have now taken up positions in and around Ban Houei Sai.



50X1

2. EEC developments

a. With the French refraining from throwing up any roadblocks to Britain's accession, negotiations at last week's ministerial conference were businesslike and made some progress. The British agreed gradually to phase out preferences on certain manufactured goods exported by the Commonwealth and agreed in principal to conform to the community's commercial, monetary, and social welfare policies. A tentative start was also made toward finding a formula for the eventual elimination of Commonwealth preferences for agricultural products, but there is still a long way to go on this one.

b. The EEC Council meets today to consider ways and means of retaliating against our glass and carpets tariffs.

3. Hong Kong refugees

Backlash from the Hong Kong episode has raised more problems for Peiping. Ten days ago would-be refugees were being returned to Canton at the rate of about 6,000 a day. [REDACTED]

50X1
50X1

4. Venezuela

President Betancourt [redacted] probably cannot expect the military to keep its hands off the government if there is another uprising like the Carupano and Puerto Cabello affairs, is preparing to crack down again on the left. He plans to issue a decree later this week suspending Communist and pro-Communist members from Congress, but which will fall short of actually outlawing the party. The security situation seems to be returning to normal, despite the scattered bombing and shooting incidents that were still going on in Caracas as late as yesterday morning.

50X1
50X1

5. Soviet weapons tests

[redacted]

50X1

[redacted] We do not yet know what is going on, but we suspect the Soviets could be preparing for another complex test operation like the one last fall. [redacted]

50X1

50X1

6. Cuban foreign relations

a. The Castro regime, probably motivated by a desire to eliminate the most readily removable irritant in its relations with Latin American countries,

[redacted] 50X1
is now prepared to facilitate the departure of all political asylees, provided it costs Cuba nothing and US aircraft are not used. There is one big hitch to executing this plan, however, which is that most of the asylees want to come to the US. [redacted] 50X1

b. Egypt is making a pitch for Cuba to be present at the economic conference of nonaligned states to be held in Cairo next month. [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] 50X1

NOTES

- A. Peiping [redacted] New Delhi [redacted] border problem [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] may [redacted] show a fresh outbreak of incidents 50X1
in the disputed areas. 50X1
- B. We believe the odds are probably better than even that press reports indicating that the Iraqi Government will soon declare an official boycott against American goods will turn out to be true.
- C. Robert Mann, the American student arrested in Berlin in January on charges of aiding the escape of East Germans to West Berlin, is scheduled to go on trial sometime next week.
- D. [redacted] Viet Cong 50X1
agents are busily indoctrinating the Vietnamese refugees in Northeast Thailand to resist any security measures that Thai authorities may attempt to impose on their communities. [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] 50X1
- F. [redacted] an unspecified number of Soviet MIG-21's 50X1
were delivered to the UAR in mid-May and that another batch is probably on the way. [redacted] 50X1
- G. The Belgian NATO ambassador, who had a long talk with Salazar on Saturday, says that the Portuguese leader indicated that he would demand some "very important concessions" when negotiations on the Azores base get under way.
- H. In Bolivia, incomplete election returns show President Paz's party taking the lead and moving toward victory with the help of widespread fraud and intimidations.

DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

50X1

I.

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE