

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST



12 JULY 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Algeria

We have no clear word yet on what went on at the reconciliation talks or what is supposed to happen next. Reports now have it that some agreement was reached on "procedures" for settling the dispute, but that the differences themselves remain unresolved. Ben Bella arrived yesterday at his home town in Algeria amid plaudits of the multitude; [redacted] now is the time for him to make a clear break with the Provisional government.^{50X1} Elections for a constituent assembly are scheduled for 12 August, and Ben Bella may spend the interim promoting a slate of candidates to oppose those advanced by Ben Khedda's group.

2. Laos

Souvanna plans to leave Paris for his US visit in two weeks (25 or 26 July). He plans to be here four days (three official, one private) and to return home via Tokyo and Hong Kong. He has been invited to address the Council on Foreign Relations. His son will accompany, but not his wife.

3. Congo

a. Congolese Foreign Minister Bomboko has been busy at the UN this past week trying to persuade Afro-Asian members that now is the time for all good anti-colonialists to come to the aid of his country. His quest for more military assistance from these countries reflects prevailing sentiment in Leopoldville that the UN will not take effective action to bring Tshombé around. [redacted]

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b. The UN today moved quickly to seal off Elisabethville when Tshombé staged a much more extensive military parade than the UN had been led to expect.

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4. USSR - South Vietnam

Soviet delegate Pushkin took the initiative at a private lunch with Gov. Harriman yesterday to discuss South Vietnam. He evidently was taking preliminary soundings before Gromyko brings the subject up with Secretary Rusk. His pitch, of course, was that we should dump Diem.

5. Italy

Moscow's disarmament and world peace clambake suffered a setback from an important quarter early in the game when ranking Italian Socialists published a statement not only declining to attend, but denouncing the meeting as a sterile propaganda effort. A more fruitful course, they said, would be an exchange of views under non-partisan auspices between responsible personalities and political forces.

USIB WATCH COMMITTEE MEETING

11 July 1962

1. On the basis of the report of its Watch Committee concerning the Taiwan Strait situation, the United States Intelligence Board concluded that:

No significant change in Chinese Communist military dispositions in the Taiwan Strait area has been noted since our last report. We see no indication that the Chinese Communists intend to launch an assault against the major Offshore Islands in the immediate future.

2. The Board concluded that no Sino-Soviet Bloc country intends to initiate direct military action in the immediate future.

3. In its report, the Board noted the currently high level of Soviet naval exercise activity and normal seasonal training activity in the Soviet air forces. The Warsaw Pact exercise reportedly scheduled to take place in Eastern Europe is not yet underway. The Board sees no fundamental change in Soviet attitude toward East-West problems, but noted that during recent weeks various Bloc spokesmen have been expressing an interest in a step-up in negotiations with the West and possibly an eventual Summit meeting.

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NOTES

A. The Foreign Office, we are told, is prepared to make strong representation to Jamaica and Trinidad against granting landing rights to Soviet civil aircraft, but will leave the final decision up to the governments concerned. It thinks Jamaica will deny the Soviets, but Trinidad may not.

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B.



C. The Nationalists are dropping hints that we should provide them with more advanced jets in view of the Communist air buildup along the coast.

D. The Spanish cabinet reorganization announced on Tuesday clarified the problem of succession should Franco suddenly leave the scene. A new post of Vice President of the Government was created and given to Chief of General Staff Munoz Grandes who, in his new position, will head all three armed services. He thus becomes second only to Franco in title and rank.

E. V. M. Vinogradov, trade specialist and colleague of Mikoyan will be the new Soviet ambassador to Japan. His appointment is another display of Moscow's determination to develop its potential as a trading partner of Japan.

F. The Viet Cong claim that South Vietnamese offensives are being mounted on the basis of information supplied by released US prisoners. A Viet Cong broadcast warned that further use of released persons for this purpose can only make more unhappy the lot of those US prisoners still detained.

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE