

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST



20 JULY 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. USSR

a. We have been seeing indications which suggest that the Soviets are getting ready for another series of space shots. The present betting is for the launching of a recoverable earth satellite early next month, followed by a Venus probe shortly thereafter. [redacted]

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b. Moscow has closed off an area of the Barents Sea just north of Murmansk from today through Monday. We suspect this is for the purpose of conducting naval missile tests, perhaps with Khrushchev at the button. [redacted]

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2. Laos

[redacted]

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[redacted] If Souvanna has changed his travel plans, he has so far kept it to himself.

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b. Meanwhile, the first feeble effort at troikaism--formation of composite battalions--is coming apart at the seams. Phoumi, reacting to Souphannouvong's refusal to permit his troops to enter the Plaine des Jarres, has threatened to "arrest" the Kong Le and Pathet Lao units in Vientiane and Luang Prabang. As a consequence, these troops, except for a small body-guard contingent for Souphannouvong, are being withdrawn from those towns.

c. Neutralist-Pathet Lao harmony, manifest in Vientiane, tends to modulate into discord in the back-country where the struggle for local influence goes on

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unabated. Our information indicates that, in some instances, the two sides are close to exchanging blows. [redacted]

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d. A Kong Le battalion commander yesterday received orders to select candidates for specialized training with a view to their replacing Vietnamese instructors "when they return to their country." We are not by any means prepared to say that this bit of information heralds an imminent, large-scale withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Laos. It is, nonetheless, the sort of thing we would expect to see with increasing frequency when, and if, Hanoi does decide to evacuate its troops. [redacted]

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e. In Geneva, all delegations have signified their intentions to sign on the dotted line on Monday.

3. Congo

a. In Elisabethville, UN representative Gardiner finally got in to see Tshombé, but, at last report, had not made much headway with him on matters of substance. Meanwhile, an uneasy calm prevails, but more trouble may erupt following the reestablishment of the UN roadblock which was temporarily dismantled yesterday to avoid incidents during the funeral of the victims killed during Thursday's rioting.

b. Our consul, noting an upsurge of anti-US sentiment, reports that there is a danger of demonstrations against the Consulate and Americans, but does not feel the time has come to consider evacuation.

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c. Back in Leopoldville, President Kasavubu has rejected the request of Adoula's opponents to appoint a new prime minister, and proposes to adjourn parliament instead. Adoula, having thus negotiated one hurdle, is confronted with fresh troubles, this time from the military side. Many of his troops, not having much stomach for a scrap, are balking against being sent to Katanga, while out in Stanleyville--Lumumba's old stronghold--General Lundula is acting more and more as though he is his own boss. [REDACTED]

50X1

d. Officials of Union Miniere on Wednesday listened politely (albeit with their eyes on the ceiling), but were impervious to Ambassador MacArthur's arguments for a switch in their company's Katanga policy.

4. South Vietnam

The Communist-operated liberation front on Wednesday laid some of its cards on the table. In what amounted to a straight plagiarism from Souvanna Phouma's book; it called for the establishment of an all-party national coalition government which it envisages will "adopt a neutral peaceful foreign policy, establish friendly intercourse with any country and in the first place with neighboring states. It will not affiliate with any military block, not recognize any foreign military base on its territory, and will accept aid from any country, providing no political conditions are attached. An international agreement is to be signed whereby the great powers of different blocs commit

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themselves to respecting the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and neutrality of South Vietnam." 50X1

5. West New Guinea

Dutch Premier De Quay yesterday expressed satisfaction over the way negotiations with the Indonesians are going. He also hinted that The Hague, in the interest of keeping things moving, would be amenable to shortening the transitional period prior to Djakarta's takeover of the disputed territory, provided an appropriate role was retained for the UN.

6. Britain-EEC

The ministerial conference which got under way in Brussels yesterday may tell the story on whether the UK will gain early admittance to the Common Market. Against a backdrop of resurgent French opposition and the unresolved squabble over markets for temperate zone agricultural products, the initial outlook is not especially promising.

7. Peru

a. There were sporadic demonstrations in downtown Lima last night, and trouble now is beginning to spread to the countryside. A good deal of behind-the-scenes talk of general strikes, counter-coups and the like is going on, the general feeling being that if the junta is not thrown off soon, there will be many lean years ahead as far as free political activity is concerned.

b. Mexico, Panama and Costa Rica have recalled their ambassadors in Lima; Honduras and Brazil have suspended relations.

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NOTES

- A. Burma's General Ne Win recently told Malcolm MacDonald that the Soviets have been after him to conclude an arms deal which would include jet fighters, but that he had repeatedly turned thumbs down. [redacted] 50X1
- B. In Japan, the refusal of several prominent members of the ruling Liberal-Democratic Party to serve in the new cabinet means that Prime Minister Ikeda, like those before him, is probably in for some hard times with his own party during his sophomore term. 50X1
- C. Prime Minister Wasfi Tal of Jordan, reform-minded and a backer of civilian supremacy in the military establishment, is said to be raising the hackles of the military and conservative politicians [redacted]
- D. A Soviet submarine tender, now cruising in the Indian Ocean east of Ceylon, may be on a mission to service the submarines that Moscow has turned over to Indonesia. [redacted] 50X1
- E. Yet another Soviet official of cabinet rank is on a foreign assignment. He is Minister of Communications Psurtsev who is en route to Cuba to negotiate "a further improvement" of postal, telegraph, and telephone connections between the two countries.

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DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST

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II.

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE