

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST



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24 JULY 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. USSR-Berlin

The unremitting thunder out of Moscow about Berlin strikes us as perhaps heralding another campaign to impede Western access to the city. The current antics by Soviet aircraft in the corridors (there were eight incidents yesterday, the highest since the February-March period of tension,) may represent a foretaste of what is to come. Judging from the emphasis with which the Communists are playing up incidents on the S-Bahn (Berlin elevated railroad), rail access may be affected as well.

2. Communist China

a. In Geneva, the closing days of the conference were highlighted by a sudden affability on the part of the Chinese Communist delegates toward our people, and by Chen Yi's closing speech on Saturday which, except for a demand that US troops be withdrawn from Thailand, was devoid of the usual anti-American invective. All of this may be merely a reflection of the prevailing local euphoria. On the other hand, we are impressed by Chen's remarks that agreement in Laos opens the door to the settlement of other problems, and note that he all but called for another conference to tackle Vietnam. Thus we do not rule out the possibility that these gestures are intended to convey word that Peiping is interested in doing more business with the US.

b. On another cold war front, Peiping, in one of its rare shows of approval of anything Russian, yesterday gave Moscow a big pat on the back for announcing its intention to resume nuclear testing.

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c. Yesterday, two Chinese Communist jet fighters intercepted, and made an identification pass at one of our aircraft on a routine patrol down the middle of the Taiwan Strait. It is too early to assess the significance of this affair as it is the first of its kind, but we think the Chinese may have in mind copying the harassing tactics used by the Soviets against our flight activity over the Sea of Japan. [redacted]

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3. Laos

a. News of the signing of the Geneva agreements touched off sighs of relief on all sides in Vientiane.

b. Souphannouvong told Ambassador Unger this morning that he had received a message from Souvanna (stimulated by Secretary Rusk and Governor Harriman) urging the prompt release of American prisoners. For what it is worth, he claims to have sent back word that "appropriate measures" would be taken, and indicated to Unger that he would personally handle the matter. He did not, however, make any promises to produce quick results.

c. Meanwhile, Kong Le and Pathet Lao troops, frequently at sword's point in the struggle for influence in the hinterland, still stand as one when it comes to dealing with Vientiane's forces. Our information shows no letup in their joint campaign to eliminate pro-Phoumi guerrillas in central Laos and to push his regulars around in the south, ceasefire and coalition government notwithstanding. [redacted]

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4. Indonesia - West New Guinea

a. Sukarno yesterday sharpened his demand for a quick turnover of the administration over West New Guinea by publicly declaring that "before the cock cries on 1 January, West Irian should have been returned to Indonesia." The only purpose for his sending Subandrio to Washington, he added, was to find out whether the Dutch might be agreeable.

b. Meanwhile, Indonesia's arsenal of advanced Soviet weapons has been enlarged by the delivery of six small naval craft which appear to be motor torpedo boats but might turn out to be guided missile patrol boats. The striking power of the air force is also in for a boost, if, as we suspect, the four Soviet transports scheduled to arrive in Djakarta later this week are loaded with extra missiles for the TU-16 medium jet bombers now being flown by Indonesian crews.

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5. Algeria

The factional struggle for power appears to be moving inexorably toward a showdown. Ben Bella, full of confidence and backed by powerful military forces as well as a political entourage which looks remarkably like a ready-made government, is giving every indication of being set to move in for the

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kill. In Algiers, meanwhile, the resignation yesterday of two members of the provisional government has given impetus to the feeling that the time has come to abandon ship [redacted]

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[redacted] Ben Khedda, himself, is on the verge of hoisting the white flag.

6. Congo

a. It is now evident [redacted] that the cold-shoulder treatment that UN Congo chief Gardiner received in Elisabethville is traceable to the advice Tshombé has been getting [redacted]

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[redacted] Last week, for instance, Tshombé was told that his position is strong, getting stronger by the day, and that everything will work out fine if he only sits tight and keeps up a front of sweet reasonableness. We expect Tshombé, at the urging of his advisers, to spell out his position in a forthcoming letter to Belgian Foreign Minister Spaak, in which he will express "heart-felt wishes" for a peaceful settlement of the Katanga problem (on Katanga's terms, of course), but promise to resist any solution imposed by force. [redacted]

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b. The prospects for new talks, however, diminished this morning when Tshombé, reading last week's parliamentary proceedings as having tossed the Leopoldville government out of office, declared he was no longer willing to negotiate with Adoula.

7. Peru

The general strike called yesterday got off to a hesitant start, sputtered badly and quickly flopped. With it died any immediate prospects of serious resistance to the military regime which now is going all-out to get itself accepted in the international community. It has issued a decree installing Perez Godoy as president of the republic, and assigning to itself full legislative and executive powers. With an eye to US recognition, the junta is busily lining up local American business interests to plead its case in Washington.

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- B. A major reshuffle in the upper echelons of both party and government is under way in Yugoslavia. By bringing in new blood at the top and spreading responsibility a little thinner, the Tito regime hopes to overcome the bureaucratic lethargy which has been partly responsible for the country's current economic woes.
- C. Dahomey's President Maga tells us that the USSR and Czechoslovakia have promised to help get his country out of a financial hole by digging into their jeans and coming up with \$28,000,000 worth of unsecured loans. We suspect that Maga is counting his chickens before they hatch, and that the best he is likely to get is a line of credit for goods he may--or may not--need.

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE