

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

31 JULY 1962

~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Laos

There have been further signs that the North Vietnamese have begun to pull part of their forces in Laos back to their home bases. In addition to the fall-off in communications linking these forces, we have been seeing, since the middle of last week, a sizable spurt in the number of round-trip flights between Nam Tha and Dien Bien Phu which would suggest troop-ferrying operations. North Vietnamese elements in the Tchepone area of southern Laos are also on the move. However, it looks as though they are heading in the direction of the South Vietnamese border rather than homeward.

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2. Afghanistan-Pakistan

The Shah has made a quick flight to Pakistan to fill Ayub in on the progress of his talks with the Afghans. What he would like to have when he returns to Kabul is Ayub's go-ahead for a public statement which would say that both Pakistan and Afghanistan have accepted the Shah's good offices toward restoring diplomatic, consular, and trade relations. If Ayub will go that far toward meeting them, the Afghans say, they will give him in return assurances that they will not use their missions in Pakistan as propaganda outlets. Although we doubt that things can be wrapped up all that neatly or quickly, the Shah seems at the least to be creating the right atmosphere for a useful dialogue.

3. Algeria

a. Ben Bella's man Mohammed Khider is in Algiers for eleventh-hour talks on a political settlement with Ben Khedda and company.

b. The armed seizure yesterday of Deputy Premier Boudiaf, who is even more bitterly opposed to Ben Bella than Belkacem Krim, promised to wreck the talks at the very outset, but reports this morning are that he has since been turned loose.

c. The move against Boudiaf, on its face, served the cause of Ben Bella, but we are not sure that he had anything to do with it. The military seem to be acting on their own more and more. This is partly because they are fed up with the squabbling among the civilians, but it seems that they are also getting a taste for political power, and that whoever takes command of the government will have some trouble getting them back to their barracks.

d. The Provisional Government has formally announced what was already obvious: that the elections to a constituent assembly, which had been set for August 12, will have to be put off because a slate of candidates is lacking.

NOTES

- A. The Syrian Government is focusing just about all of its energies on an anti-sedition effort. As its jails begin to fill up, Damascus has called for a meeting of the Arab League Council to hear its charges of subversion against Nasir.
- B. Although the spotlight on the problem has been turned down, the Hong Kong Government says the refugee influx is still running high--about three times last year's rate. In the last month, it has amounted to something like 8,000 arriving by way of Macao and 2,000 crossing the land border with China.

DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

I. UAR Ambassador comments on US policy toward neutrals.

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE